

# Joy to the World

*By Isaac Watts (1719)*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

**Cover art:** "The Death of Saul" by Matthaeus Merian (the Elder) originally published in *Icones Biblicae* (1625-1630).

# Old Orchard Church

September 2, 2012 - 10:15 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

**...The patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ....**

**Exalted to the right hand of God, the Son has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. (Acts 2:29-33)**

## Celebrating Jesus, Fulfiller of the Covenant Made With David: The Kingdom of God Present

It is the Lord's Day!  
Let us give thanks to the Father,  
For he has given us a share in the inheritance of the saints  
In the kingdom of light.

By grace, and in faithfulness to David,  
God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
And brought us into a kingdom—  
The kingdom of the Son he loves.

In ascending to heaven Christ began his reign on David's throne.  
The Kingdom has come!  
Our baptisms signify that we are its citizens;  
Our faith and our obedience to the Lord confirm it,  
But the sovereign grace of God secures it.

Blessed are they forever who live the Kingdom way  
In the strength of the Spirit of God!  
Alleluia!



### Today's Scripture

Old Testament Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:4-17  
Gospel Reading: Hebrews 1:1-5

### Labor Day Weekend Testimony

"Faith at Work in the Good Work of Administration and Teaching"

*Jill Donovan*  
Director of Academics, John Burroughs School

## Many Covenants, One Promise

Are God's various covenants a succession of separate, unrelated covenants? Does he end one covenant and then replace it with a new one? Or, do the covenants build on one another, unfolding God's redemptive plan, little by little, until his whole purpose is revealed? In other words, has God had one single plan of redemption for all his people in all times, or has he had multiple plans that address different people in different times?

The covenantal view sees one unified plan of redemption that embraces every area of life....

There is but one covenant of grace—one conditional promise of redemption—that runs throughout all Scripture and redemptive history. Within this one covenant of grace there are a variety of *administrations*. These various administrations are seen in the Adamic covenant, the Noahic covenant, the Abrahamic covenant, the Mosaic covenant, the Davidic covenant, and the New Covenant....

God's one plan of redemption unfolded in time to reveal more of his purpose as he entered into covenant with David. This new administration of the covenant of grace is described in 2 Samuel 7, which relates how God inaugurated and established his kingdom. The kingship of David prefigured the everlasting kingship of David's descendant—King Jesus.

The unique feature of the Davidic covenant was the establishment of a king over Israel forever. The Lord spoke to David through Nathan, saying, **When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** (vv. 12-13). This prophecy was fulfilled both in Solomon and eventually in Jesus Christ. King David never hesitated to appeal to the previous covenant oaths of God and to apply them to his kingdom. The Davidic covenant specifically identified itself with both the Abrahamic and the Mosaic covenants. For example, David recalled the promises that God had made to Abraham when he sang about the ark being brought to Jerusalem....

We should also note that mere physical descent from David was not sufficient reason for a descendant to receive covenant blessings. God required, as he always had, *covenant faithfulness from the heart*. Then, and only then, could covenant blessing be expected and the redemptive promises be fulfilled.

In the Old Testament covenants, the flower bud of redemption swells in anticipation of a full display of all its glory and beauty. As God reveals more and more of his redemptive plan, new revelation is always inseparably tied to his previous covenants. In fact, each successive covenant is but a renewal and an explanation of the previous covenants.

—Robert R. Booth in *Children of the Promise* (1995)

