



December 17, 2023 – Heaven and Nature Sing

If there is one thing that often amazes me at this time of year, it is the fact that even the most secular of radio stations will play the most amazing Christmas carols – which proclaim Jesus coming! Even a world bent on darkness, is bathed in the light of song. And the Savior who draws near deserves a response of praise! Join us this weekend as we recalibrate our hearts back to the One deserving of our praise!

Scripture:

Psalm 96:1-4, 7-9

Sing God a brand-new song! Earth and everyone in it, sing! Sing to God—*worship* God! ²⁻³Shout the news of his victory from sea to sea, Take the news of his glory to the lost, News of his wonders to one and all! ⁴⁻⁵For God is great, and worth a thousand Hallelujahs...God made the heavens—Royal splendor radiates from him, A powerful beauty sets him apart. ⁷Bravo, God, Bravo! Everyone join in the great shout: Encore! In awe before the beauty, in awe before the might. ⁸⁻⁹Bring gifts and celebrate, Bow before the beauty of God, Then to your knees—everyone worship!

Luke 1:46-55

Mary responded, “Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. ⁴⁷How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! ⁴⁸For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. ⁵⁰He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. ⁵¹His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. ⁵²He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful. ⁵⁵For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever.”

Questions:

- What is one/some of your favorite Christmas song(s)? What is it about each song that makes it a favorite?
- Which of those songs, or maybe another, best connects you to the joy of the season?
- What is one reason you have to sing this Christmas? How has God shown you God’s goodness and faithfulness in your life?
- How might you “sing” the glory of God into and through a new year?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Luke 1:31-33

Tuesday: Psalm 89:8

Wednesday: Psalm 98

Thursday: Romans 15:13

Friday: Psalm 30:11-12