**CAROLS TELL THE STORY SERIES**

**“Joy to the World”**

**December 23, 2012**

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**Experiencing Joy**

8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. 9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! Luke 2:8-11

The Christmas carol “Joy to the World” points us to four sources of joy that God wants us to experience.

1. **The joy of coming to the end of “waiting”.**

“Joy to the world the Lord is come”

Luke 2:11 The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David.

1. **The joy of having pain assuaged, brokenness restored, and mistakes erased.**

“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.”

Psalms 51:8 “Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me - now let me rejoice.”

I John 1:9 “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

1. **The joy of aesthetic beauty.**

“Let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing. Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy.”

Phil 4:8 “Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

1. **The joy of basking in the “wonders of God’s love”.**

“He rules the earth with truth and grace and makes the nations prove, the glories of his righteousness; and wonders of his love.”

Romans 8:39 “... nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Response: Let’s release the joy that we have in Christ Jesus.**