

“Jesus Only You”

Christmas Eve 2021; Luke 2:1-20

There is a song I have not been able to get out of my head the last few weeks, “Little Drummer Boy.” It is not so much the song as it is the singers. Perhaps, you have seen the video of Carrie Underwood and her young son, Isaiah, sing this well-known Christmas favorite together. If not, you can find it on YouTube. It is quite fascinating to watch and listen to young Isaiah, singing into the microphone in a recording studio as mom stands by his side encouraging his every word. When he begins singing Isaiah sits rather still on his chair; however, as the song progresses and they reach the end there is a wonderful moment in which his arms begin to move, almost beating his own invisible drum, his voice raises and suddenly his arms reach over his head, his eyes become wide and there is just this overwhelming expression of exuberance and joy on his face.

It is not the only song that has been playing recently in my office. There is another one sung by London Gatch titled “Jesus Only You” with lyrics that proclaim:

- You are my rock, my hope my salvation
- Only you can make it right again
- Only you will make me whole within
- Only you will satisfy
- In the storm, you are my peace
- When the mountains shake, you are my strength
- Jesus Only You, Hallelujahⁱ

We come tonight to worship, whether you are with us in this space or whether you are in your home, at grandpa and grandma’s house, a hotel room or wherever it is this holy night finds you. The Spirit gathers us to sing beloved hymns. Our song erupts in exuberance and joy We gather once more to hear the story of our Savior’s birth. We gather to hear the word of God the angel said unto those shepherds, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

There it is. Wrapped up in the word of God. That which makes our joy complete.
Jesus Only You. -- J.O.Y.

This night! It is so easy to get wrapped up in so many other things. All of which can steer our mind and hearts away from the one thing for which we sing. Jesus Only You.

It is this message of great news for all people. The presence of the angel. The glory of the Lord, a radiant beam of light, breaking through the darkness of the night. Being swaddled in the chorus of the heavenly host echoing through that once silent night. God drew near and did something to those shepherds tending to their flocks in a desolate, dark field that holy night.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Might those shepherds, who probably were the least likely of characters to be issued the first invitation to go and see this great thing which has been done, have heard “for unto you” and were overcome with the same sense of comfort, peace and joy we are filled with when we hear the words, “This is my body, this is my blood ... given for you.”

Those words, the angel, the chorus of the multitudes stirred something within them, got them up off their seats, gone was their fear and confidently, boldly, with eyes wide open they proclaimed, “Let us now go unto Bethlehem, and see this thing ... the Lord hath made known to us.”

So, with haste, to Bethlehem they went in search of the promised one made known long ago. Jesus only you. Made their joy complete...so much so..., “they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.”

I have found joy can be a fleeting thing. Here one moment and gone the next. Yet, the joy we have only in Jesus is not a one and done. This joy is experienced whether we are together or all alone. This joy is not found in an unwrapped present. Rather, this joy is found wrapped in swaddling cloths in a manger.

God entered the world in an entirely new way in that remote village of Bethlehem. In a stable because there was no room for them in the inn, God’s love for and identification with humanity drew near. Heaven met earth. Divine took on flesh. Emanuel. God with us.

Jesus Only You is it God we meet. Jesus Only You our we replete with love. Jesus Only You is our faith made concrete. Jesus Only You is our joy complete.

Jesus Only You. J.O.Y.

Silent night. Holy night. The angel of the Lord has come upon us. The glory of the Lord shines on us. The multitude of the heavenly host accompanies our song and our proclamation. By our side is the babe in the manger. Our Lord. Our Savior. Jesus Only You. Encourage us each day so we confidently go making known abroad the good news of great joy found only in you. Hallelujah!

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