



Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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Scriptures from the
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June is sometimes called the month of weddings. Since we are focusing on hymns, this made me think about wedding hymns and songs.

My husband and I chose the hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” for our wedding processional.

Henry Van Dyke, the author, was inspired to write the words to this hymn from his view of the Berkshire mountains of Massachusetts, in 1907. He gave the lyrics to the president of Williams College and said that it must be sung to the music of Beethoven’s “Hymn of Joy.” Van Dyke said: “This is a hymn of trust, joy and hope.”

A good way to start out a marriage is with trust, joy and hope, the very theme of this hymn.

Psalm 100, verses 1 and 2 tell us to: *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.* Over 150 verses in the Bible focus on joy. Even when times are tough and not joyful, we can still look to Scripture for inspiration, as in 1Thessalonians 5:16-18: *Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.* No matter what we encounter through our years here on earth, we always have love, forgiveness and the hope of eternal life to look forward to each and every day. When we trust and hope in God, we will find joy!



*Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving.
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine.
Teach us how to love each other;
Lift us to the joy divine.*

Then Sings My Soul; 150 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories, compiled by Robert J. Morgan, p. 264.

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