

# God of Joy

As you are gathering, sing *Jubilate Deo* (27).  
This can be sung as a round once enough people  
have arrived.

**Leader** Thank you, Lord, our God,  
**All** for the pleasure of your company;  
for the companionship of your friends here;  
for the happiness of singing  
your praise together.

**Leader** Lord, we ask you  
**All** to free us in our praise  
so that we may enjoy to the full  
receiving what you delight to give us,  
and giving what you delight to receive.

Sing *I will enter his gates* (23)  
*Amen siakudumisa* (5)  
*I delight greatly in the Lord* (19)  
Finish with *Can it be true* (10)

*Silence* Enjoy being in the company of your  
Saviour, who is happy to share this time with you.  
Talk with him if you wish, but you don't have to say  
anything at all; it may help to think of yourself as a  
young child just leaning against a loving parent.

**Leader** It was with joy that Mary sang;  
**All** it was news of great joy  
which the angels proclaimed.

**Leader** With joy the shepherd finds his lost sheep,

**Women** the woman her lost coin,

**Men** the ploughman his hidden treasure.

**All** The kingdom of God  
is a kingdom of joy –  
a deep delight which lasts for ever  
and is for ever renewed;  
a freshwater spring  
that never runs dry.  
Lord, give us this joy.

*Silence* The more we are turned in on ourselves,  
the less we will notice God's joy. Use this silence to  
turn deliberately away from self-centredness  
towards God-centredness. You will find any  
resentment, bitterness or annoyance beginning to  
lift; the space it leaves will be filled with God's joy.

**Leader** Lord, the joy that you provide  
**All** is independent of mood, food or treats.

**Women** Your joy runs deeper than rapids;  
it is beyond the range of all pain;

**Leader** your joy is promised  
and brings great happiness;

**All** yet it is quite compatible with tears.

**Leader** Listen now to these words from Isaiah.

Reading Isaiah 35.1-10

**Leader** This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

**Leader** So let us pray together in the joy  
and comfort of knowing God's love  
for us. . .  
For all who weep and mourn at the moment.

*Silence*

**All** May their sorrow be turned into joy.

**Leader** For all who suffer from depression  
and mental anguish.

*Silence*

**All** May their suffering be redeemed  
and used for good.

**Leader** For those whose happiness  
is dependent on status and money.

*Silence*

**All** May they know your lasting joy.

**Leader** For all who work to alleviate suffering.

*Silence*

**All** The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,  
and peace. May God, the source of hope,  
fill us with all joy and peace. Amen.

Finish with a shared Peace.

*You shall go  
out with joy.*  
*To Worship us Stillness*  
*Susan Sayers @1991*