

Hope Presbyterian Church  
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



July 2, 2023 - “Christ Comes” - #4 in the series Jesus in the Psalms

**Texts Referenced:** Psalm 98:1-9, Luke 2:25-32, John 14:1-3 NIV

1. What stood out to you about the message?
  
2. Consider how *Joy to the World*, written in 1719 by Isaac Watts and largely associated with the Christmas season, was intended by the lyricist to be something other than a Christmas carol.
  - Why do you think this hymn found its way into the global canon of Christmas music?
  
3. **Read Psalm 98:1-3**
  - Notice how this text uses the **present perfect tense**, indicating a past action that continues into the present - “**has made** his salvation known” and “**has remembered** his love and faithfulness to Israel.”
  - How do these verses help us better understand salvation as *an ongoing act of rescue or providing aid*?
  - When is a memorable time you’ve been “rescued” and reminded of your salvation experience?
  
4. **Read and Luke 2:25-32**
  - Why is Simeon’s encounter with the infant Jesus critical to the Messiah prophesy and the salvation story?
  - What can we learn from Simeon’s example in our personal faith journey?
  
5. **Read Psalm 98:4-9 and John 14:1-3.**
  - What images in these texts stand out as promises of triumph, rescue, and reconciliation at Jesus’ final coming?
  - How do the verses in Psalm 98 help you think about Isaac Watts’ lyrics - *Joy to the world, the Lord is come!* - as not only a Christmas carol?
  
6. How can we pray for you?