

Worship Material
Come, Jesus, and fill us with joy
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 14th December

Begin with an opening prayer

Lord Jesus,
we pray that you would come to us by your Spirit
and fill us afresh with your joy.

Take away our fear, lift up our hearts,
and grant us a fresh vision of your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

Read the passage Isaiah 35.1-10

Bible notes

In this passage, even nature is rejoicing, bursting into blossom and birdsong, and flowing with water in dry places. This is Isaiah talking to those in the middle of the great disaster of exile, marched in chains away from their homeland across a stony wilderness, unable to return. Isaiah tells them that their story has not yet ended. There will be a joyful return, and the road will be so good that not even fools could get lost on it. Part of this joyful restoration is healing – the eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear are opened, the immobile leap about, the silent sing for joy. Sorrow and sighing will slink off defeated and the exiles will return home rejoicing.

Prayer

Thank you, God,
that in our differences and in our diversity, you are our God.

Thank you:

for the changes and chances and challenges that surround us;

for your constancy and the blessings we receive from those around us;

for the Gospel words that speak of hope and joy,

light and life and love;

for the gifts you have given us in abundance;

that we can gather to celebrate your coming.

Thank you that in hope and expectation we can shout:

'Come Jesus, fill us with joy!'

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

Lord God, may we go:
with joy and singing,
strong and without fear,
to walk your highway
with joy and gladness
and without sorrow and sighing.
For Jesus' sake, we pray.

Amen.