

## TO LIVE OUT OF JOY

*"...do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8;10 NRSV*

To live out of joy our faith must be strong,  
for sadness abounds to silence our song.  
But joyful, our Master has called us has called us to serve,  
redeeming the present and steeling our nerve.

In face of deep hate which spawns many wrongs  
the Gospel of joy will move us along  
to places of refuge and peace in the night,  
in spite of the anger and sources of fright.

God's joy bubbles up from springs deep within  
when hope becomes scarce, and gloom settles in.  
Come, drink from those waters in seasons of drought;  
let joy bring renewal in pain and in doubt.

Then joyfully live in Jesus' own way,  
for happiness grows through giving away.  
When churches of Jesus stand up for the poor  
they honor and follow the One they adore.

*Words: R. Frederick Crider, ©2014 All rights reserved. Scripture: Nehemiah 8:10 NRSV*

LYONS

*Suggested Tune: Attr. to J. Michael Haydn, arr. by William Gardiner, 1815 10.10.11.11 (cf. #73 UMH "O Worship The King")*

*(Inspired by a letter to the Church from Pope Francis, emphasizing that the source of vibrant faith and committed service in difficult times, is the joy of the Gospel.)*

