

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.

(Suggested Tune: Lyons 10.10.11.11 as in "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.)

The Master of joy has called us by grace *The faith of our Master*

The joy of the Gospel is rooted in love

Which frees us to worship our Savior above.

*Commits us to serve with justice and care
care showing that love.*

Then grows to involvement in justice and

*Displaying God's kingdom in which we all share.
above.*

And gets involved in true life from

"The Lord is close to the broken hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Ps. 34:18
NIV

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, to the point of death." Matt. 26:35

"Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again, and you will rejoice, and no one will take
away your joy." John 16:22

*From a letter to the Church from Pope Francis "For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace." Isaiah 55:12 NRSV
"Weeping may stay all night, but by morning, joy!" Ps. 30:5 CEB*

True joy will depend on nothing outside

like things, or events, or causes for pride. *fame pride accomplishment's pride. or feelings of pride.*

But inward and present to endless degree *measured*

this joy in Christ makes us eternally free. *Jesus will save and will free. surely in our Savior will make us all
free. and truly be free. God's joy which is lasting known eternal which is timeless*

