



## Psalm 47 – Shout to God with Songs of Joy

*Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. <sup>2</sup> For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. <sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. <sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. <sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. <sup>7</sup> For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. <sup>8</sup> God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. <sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.*

Five-month-old Clara Jane’s entire body showed her delight—her eyes sparkled, her lips turned up in a beautiful smile, arms and hands, legs and feet stretched and waved in joy. As we grow older, most of us learn to contain our joy, expressing it, perhaps, in a smile or a high-five or even a quick shout of delight, but not too many of us are known to “jump for joy,” even when every fiber of our being cries out to do just that. Joy must find expression. It may be expressed in physical and verbal ebullience or in more subtle and structured forms, for joy is more than happiness; joy is a contentment of the soul anchored in the sovereignty and providential goodness, love, and mercy of God.

The psalm for today is one that praises God as the sovereign of all creation. *“The Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. . . .Sing praises to God, sing praises to our King, sing praises.”* Some of us may not clap our hands and shout, as the psalmist encourages; some of us may not even sing, but the joy of knowing that God is the ruler of all, that God has “the whole world in his hands,” is one that can never be completely contained. It must find expression in the way most appropriate to who we are and in the knowledge of *whose* we are.