

Grounded and Growing—Bearing Fruit Week 2

Joy

Material from *Reformed Worship* is meant to be adapted by worshiping communities to fit their particular context. This is an example of how one church adapted “Grounded and Growing—Bearing Fruit Week 2: Joy.” We are grateful to Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Cutlerville, MI and [Rebecca Snippe](#) for sharing this resource ([video recording](#)).

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.

Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

**All: O God,
all the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you,
sing praises to your name.**

—Psalm 66:1–3a, 4 ^{NRSVUE} Laura De Jong © 2026 ReformedWorship.org CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

***God's Greeting**

***Mutual Greeting**

***Songs**

[“Blessed Be Your Name”](#) ^{Redman}

[“Desert Song”](#)

Invitation to Lament

We have gathered here as a diverse community. Some of us feel the warmth of the sun on our faces. Others are trudging through a barren wilderness.

One of the deep joys of being community together is that we are able to take on the burdens of others in our prayers, whether that person sits next to us in the pew, or is a friend who lives across the country, or is a stranger we read about in the news.

So today, as we hear about the abiding joy of God’s presence, we do so acknowledging that we need this joy to sustain us in a world where there is so much cause for despair. Together we bring our lament before God, trusting that the

incarnate one is with us in the valley. Let us pray.
—Laura De Jong © 2026 ReformedWorship.org CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

Prayer of Lament

Today, O God, some of us dwell in deep darkness.
Our hearts are heavy, gripped by grief,
by fear, by anxiety.
For those who know what it is to weep, we pray:
Be near to us, O God, and hear our cries.

Hear our cries for those who weep
for a loved one gone too soon,
for a body frustrated by disease,
for a future snatched away by the ringing of the telephone.
For those who know what loss feels like, we pray:
Be near to us, O God, and hear our cries.

We long for the day when there is no more heartache or fear or death, O God.
We trust that that day is coming,
when you will turn our weeping to songs of joy.
May the hope of that day,
and the promise that you are with us in the waiting,
be our joy even now.
Amen.

—adapt. Laura De Jong © 2026 ReformedWorship.org CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

Assurance of God's Faithfulness

Our faithful God has heard our lament. Listen to these promises from Psalm 126 and be comforted.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.
Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

—Psalm 126^{NIV} adapt. Laura De Jong © 2026 ReformedWorship.org CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

Song of Thanksgiving

["Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"](#) Boswell et al.

Offering

Bike Trip Commissioning

Time for Prayer

Bible Reading

First Reading: John 16:16–24

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Sermon

"The Joy That Abides"

Prayer

****Song***

["Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"](#) Van Dyke

****God's Blessing***

****Song***

["Rejoice In All Your Works"](#) Kimbrough

*If you are able please stand in body or spirit.