

OH HAPPY DAY!

A little girl jumped out of bed singing a popular gospel song, "Oh, Happy Day." Her mother said knowingly, "My, aren't you happy today. I wonder why?" The little girl began singing her own little impromptu song. "We're going to a picnic. I'm going to play jump rope and swing and get on the merry-go-round. I'm going to eat everything."

Will all of our visiting friends please stand? On behalf of our pastor, Elder (pastor's name), our first elder, (first elder's name), the officers and members of the (church name) Seventh-day Adventist Church, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome and thank each of you for coming to worship with us. Your presence here is so very special to us. You may be seated, but please keep us in mind as you consider worshipping in the future.

It is so good to have somewhere to go and have fun, somewhere to feast and enjoy yourself. Let us have fun praising the Lord and feasting upon His holy word.

We thank you so for coming, to be with us today.
It makes us feel so good that we just have to say,
The joy that we feel inside, from seeing your lovely face,
Makes our day much better, as we run this Christian race.

The pastor and the officers and every member too,
Sent me up here, to make it clear, how much we welcome you.
So come again and visit, or make our church your own.
You'll find sweet love from God above, in the church that we call home.
And bless your soul you can sing, in your own special way,
In the words of that little girl, "Praise the Lord. Oh, happy day!"

LIGHTNING BUGS

Visiting his grandparents on his first night in the country, little Calvin was astonished as he sat on the steps of the front porch. "Wow, look at that!" he exclaimed pointing toward the open field. "Those bugs have little light bulbs that they can turn on and off. How do they do that?" he asked his grandfather. "I don't quite know how they do it," his grandfather laughed, "But I do know why they do it. They do it to attract other lightning bugs."

Will all of our visiting friends please stand? On behalf of our pastor, Elder (pastor's name), our first elder, (first elder's name), the officers and members of the (church name) Seventh-day Adventist Church, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. We are so happy that you have chosen to come aside with us and worship our loving Savior Jesus. You may be seated knowing that your love makes our worship so much sweeter.

Matthew 5:14 says, "Ye are the light of the world." And Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." As Christians, we are to light up this dark world that wayward travelers might find their way to Jesus. Like a ship battered by the sea looks for that beacon of hope and safety from the harbor lighthouse, so it is that Jesus desires to help mankind find their way safely to the foot of the cross. Is your light shining that others might see Jesus in you?

In a world where hope is fading out, and dying every day.
And so many souls in darkness, are trying to find their way.
Will your light shine brightly, that they might clearly see
The path to the Son of God that He might set them free?

GATHER YOURSELVES TOGETHER

The privilege of worship, the privilege of prayer, the privilege of assembling ourselves to the glory and honor of God are all much more than just a privilege. It is a blessing and a duty. For the Bible says in Zephaniah 2:1 "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired." And in Hebrews 10:23-25 it is written: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised. And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." So to be here, in response to the voice of God, on this His holy and blessed day is a privilege, a blessing, a duty, and is approved and cherished of heaven.

Will all of our visiting friends please stand? On behalf of our pastor, (pastor's name), our first elder, (first elder's name), the officers and members of the (church name) Seventh-day Adventist Church, I would like to welcome you here to worship with us on this wonderful day that the Lord has made. It is our privilege, it is our blessing, and it is our honor to welcome you. And because of you, the praise given to God will be sweeter. The songs sung will be more melodious. The prayers offered will be more sacred. We invite you to consider making this your church home. A church where Jesus is lifted up, love is given freely, and joy is having you in our midst. May God grant to you the blessings that your hearts earnestly desire, for by your presence, God has already granted us the desire of our hearts. And as you now sit, (give time for visitors to be seated) I would like to recite this short poem:

The morning welcomes the sunrise. Flowers welcome the rain.
The joy it gives in welcoming you, causes our hearts to sing.

...BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAITH THE Lord OF HOSTS...

A little boy on roller skates for the first time in his life fell hard against the pavement. He had earlier refused his father's help. "I can do it by myself, Daddy," he had spoken with confidence. But now as he looked at his skinned up knees and bruised elbow, he cried sadly to his father, "I need help."

Will all of our visiting friends please stand? On behalf of our pastor, Elder (pastor's name), our first elder, (first elder's name), the officers and members of the (church name) Seventh-day Adventist Church, I would like to welcome you as we enter the presence of God, to worship, praise and exult His holy name. You may be seated. And now to our guest and members, the songwriter says, "Oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer." How many times have we needlessly fallen? How many times have we allowed sin to scar our lives? The book of Jude says that God is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

Today Jesus offers to help us, to hold us, to keep us from falling. Will we attempt to do it on our own when we will certainly fall time and time again? Or, will we allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives? Will we trust Him to keep His promise to keep us from falling?

Zechariah 4:6 says, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." There is safety in letting go and letting God. He not only can do it, but He will do it, if only we would let Him.

There is a God who loves us, who died upon a cross
He places none above us. Why then should we be lost?
When lovingly He's calling, for us to hear His voice.
He'll keep us all from falling, but we must make the choice.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Luke 10:30 says, "And Jesus answering said, 'A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.'" But Luke 10:33 says, "'But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.'" The victim on the road to Jericho found a friend in the Good Samaritan. The Prodigal son found a friend in his father. The young David, with his sling in hand, was found to be a friend to Israel. David then found a friend in Jonathan. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, found a friend in Daniel.

Will all of our visiting friends please stand? On behalf of our pastor, Elder (pastor's name), our first elder, (first elder's name), the officers and members of the (church name) Seventh-day Adventist Church, we would like to warmly and whole heartedly welcome you as we unite in praise and worship to our loving Father. You are among friends. The word "friend" appears in the Bible 102 times. It is an important word to God. So let us call you friend, but not just for today, for Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loveth at all times." We love you, and we love even more having each of you among us today as a friend. When all is said and done in the history of this world, let us pray, that we like Abraham in James 2:23, may be called a friend of God. And as you take your seats, I would like to leave you with a short poem:

I have a friend that is like no other.
He sticketh closer than a brother.
Oh friends don't walk this road alone.
Let Jesus make your heart His home.
He'll forgive your every sin.
And filled with love, He calls you friend.