

A JOY FOR ALL THE EARTH

Official hymn of the World Meeting of Families 2018

Ephrem Feeley

Stately (♩ = 56)

INTRODUCTION:

Choir:

mf

Love bears all things,

7

en - dures all things; love longs for all things good,

12

love ne - ver ends.

VERSES 1-3:

Cantor (or choir):

17

mp 1. Love is pa - tient, and love is kind.

mp 2. Here in God's fam - 'ly all find their home.

mp 3. Love is our o - ri - gin, our con - stant call - ing.

21

Love is not re - sent - ful, it is not rude.
 All can find sal - va - tion, troub - led souls find peace.
 Love is our ful - fil - ment in God's dwell - ing place.

25

Love is not ar - ro - gant, nor boast - ful, nor jea - lous,
 Here is found ten - der - ness, com - pas - sion and jus - tice.
 Love is the my - ste - ry of Fa - ther, Son and Spi - rit,

29 *cresc.*

but love re - joi - ces, re - joi - ces in the truth.
 Here God rea - ches down to us and tou - ches us with grace.
 Love is com - mu - nion of bles - sed Tri - ni - ty.

To Refrain

REFRAIN:

33

Descant:

f The joy, of love, a joy for God's fa - mi - ly,
**Choir/
 Assembly:** *f* The joy of love, a joy for all God's fa - mi - ly,
 fa - mi - ly,

37

the joy, — the joy of love trans - cen - ding time and space. Love for each
 the joy of love, trans - cen - ding time and space. Our love for each
 space. — Our

42

o - ther mir - rors God the Fa - ther's love. — The joy of love: — a
 o - ther mir - rors God the Fa - ther's love. The joy of love: a

47

joy for all — the earth. —
 joy for all the earth. —

To Verses,
(Final time
to Coda)

VERSE 4:

52 **Cantor:**

mp This is what God asks of us: to act with jus - tice,

56

to love with ten - der - ness, to walk hum - bly with — God,

60 **Choir:** *cresc.*

to give our lives in ser - vice to o - thers. The

64

joy of the Gos - pel is the joy - ful love of Christ!

*To Final Refrain
and Coda*

CODA:

68 **Cantor:**

mp Love bears all things, en - dures all things;

73

molto rit. love longs for all things good, *a tempo* love ne - ver ends.

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Composer's Notes:

This piece found its inspiration in the document *Amoris Laetitia* - the Joy of Love, written in 2016 by Pope Francis following the Synods on the Family held the preceding two years. A substantial portion of the document is a treatment of the famous Hymn to Love found in 1 Corinthians 13, and I felt that this piece should begin with this wonderful Pauline text. To provide musical and textual symmetry, I have repeated the introduction with these words as a coda, though with pared-back accompaniment to highlight their simplicity and elegance. The main focus of *Amoris Laetitia* is the domestic family; there are also theological parallels between this and God's family in the Church.

Although the performing forces for this piece are substantial for regular parish situations, perhaps for special occasions, at least one trumpet (playing the uppermost line) could be used. The lyrical nature of the melody allows for this piece to be performed by smaller forces too, even a single voice and accompaniment, making it suitable for weddings. The piece also is suitable for general use, and could be used as a strong stately entrance or communion processional hymn.