

## **Come Be My Joy**

*A prayer service to be used with Chapter 2: Maps for the Journey: Geographical, Historical, and Literary Context.*

**Leader:** Today's prayer focuses on understanding the difference between the lasting joy of following the Lord, and the wavering and transitory happiness that comes from diverging from his path.

**Reader 1:** A Reading from the Book of Psalms (Ps 1),

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in company with scoffers.  
Rather, the law of the Lord is his joy; and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season;  
Its leaves never wither; whatever he does prospers.  
But not so are the wicked, not so! They are like chaff driven by the wind.  
Therefore the wicked will not arise at the judgment, nor will sinners in the assembly  
of the just.  
Because the Lord knows the way of the just, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.  
The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Leader:** Let us ask God to teach us how to follow him, and to desire this lasting joy. The response is, "Lord, come be my joy."

**Reader 2:** From the distorted view of what will make me happy...  
From disappointment and discouragement in the weakness of others...  
From disappointment and discouragement in my own weakness...

From the lie that You are not enough and cannot fulfill the longings of my heart...

From the moments when I place my identity in someone or something else...

In times of confusion...

In times when I am tired...

At all times, seasons, and moments in my life...