

GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY MESSAGE

Jubilate Deo!

Does anyone here know what that phrase means? Our 6th graders could tell you what that means because their English Teacher infuses a lot of Latin into their vocabulary and grammar instruction. But what do you think it means?

Some people say that it means Sing Joyfully to God! It can also mean Rejoice in the Lord or Praise God! It can mean all of those things. But what's interesting is that even though you are right...those translations still don't really capture the essence of Jubilate Deo. Sometimes when you try to translate something from its original language into another language, the translation falls a little short of capturing its essence and I think that's the case with Jubilate Deo.

If you really want to get at the heart of Jubilate Deo...start by thinking about the word jubilant. We don't use that word much in everyday life but we all know what it means to be jubilant—it's a giddy kind of joy...a bubbling over of happiness-the kind you just can't contain.

When I think of Jubilant, I think of a classic Shel Silverstein Poem called "Put Something In."

In that poem he says,

"Draw a crazy picture,
Write a nutty poem,
Sing a mumble-grumble song,
Whistle through your comb.
Do a loony-goony dance
'Cross the kitchen floor,
Put something silly in the world

That ain't been there before.”

When I think about the word jubilant, I picture a loony-goony dance ‘cross the kitchen floor. It’s a joy that is so overpowering you can’t help but look a little silly when it hits you. It’s the happiness you feel when you are finally reunited with someone you’ve missed for so long! It’s the happiness you feel when you find out the thing you’ve hoped and prayed for, the thing you’ve hardly allowed yourself to believe could actually happen has suddenly become a reality. That’s jubilant.

But Jubilate Deo is even more than that. Jubilant Deo is a young King David, dancing wildly around the arc of the covenant-God’s house- with such complete abandon that he doesn’t even notice that he’s in his jammies.

Jubilate Deo is 90 year old Sarah-wife of Father Abraham, who, after waiting a lifetime for God’s promise to be fulfilled, finally gives birth to their very first son, and is so overcome with joy that she explodes with laughter-a laughter so loud that it literally startles the neighbors.

Jubilate Deo is that weary father, the one who all but gave up all hope, who suddenly throws open the front door and races outside to embrace the Prodigal Son, swinging him around in a bear hug and then dragging him home to throw the block party of a lifetime. That’s Jubilate Deo! Praise God!

This song basically reminds us that we have every reason under heaven to be joyful -even on those occasional bad days- because God is so good! God loves us. God answers our prayers. He helps us grow and He blesses us each and every day. So go ahead: sing a joyful song! Do a loony-goony dance because we have so much to celebrate! Jubilate Deo!

And we are so jubilant today! We rejoice in the Lord gleefully because we have some of our favorite people...our grandparents and special friends on campus with us today! And we are over the moon about it! For weeks we

have been anxiously preparing for your arrival and today is finally The Day! Jubilate Deo!

We hope you know that YOU are our honored guests today. Our students cannot wait to show you around, to introduce you to their friends, to show off their work, to shower you in gifts and to capture all these precious moments in photographs. They can't wait to share our little slice of heaven with you!

Whether you are here for the very first time today or you are here every afternoon flashing your yellow carpool sign at me as I squint through the tinted windows of your car, you, like your grandchildren, are treasured members of the San Jose Episcopal Day School and church community and we are delighted to partner with you in raising up these beautiful young people whom you've entrusted into our loving care.

Your grandchildren are going to haul you from one end of campus to another today, eager to introduce you to all their teachers- but we know the truth—which is that you are also their teachers-fully invested in their education, their nurturance, and in their future. Your stories, your perspective, your advice, and your attention mean the world to them now and will make a world of difference in the years to come. As we strive to mold these future leaders, we thank you for partnering with us in advancing our shared mission-Inspiring a love of learning, a life of integrity and a heart for Christian service.

We are giddy with joy to welcome you here today and we give thanks for the opportunity to enjoy this time of fellowship together, strengthening the ties that bind us in God's service as we seek to educate and empower our world's future leaders and by the grace of God, our world's future peacemakers.