

God of Love and Joy and Laughter

(Sung to ODE TO JOY)

God of love and joy and laughter
Calling us to fruitful days
May we be the echoes after
Church and people sing your praise.
Your love calls our love to being,
Grows, surrounds, up-builds and holds
Clears our eyes for keenly seeing
All the world your love enfolds.

When we join in celebration,
grateful for abundant gifts,
send again that revelation
of your grace that heals all rifts.
Grant us love that’s deeper, stronger,
as the days turn into years,
wisdom fuller, patience longer,
faith and hope through joy and tears.

Now we ask your benediction,
blessing, challenge all in one.
Calm our stress, but use its friction,
that through us your will be done.
Keep our hope as fresh as morning,
keep our zeal warm as the sun,
keep our joy as spring aborning
cheers the hearts of everyone.

Text:  87 87 D; Jane Parker Huber from **A Singing Faith** ©1987 The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, PA