



# MESSAGE OUTLINE

## Christmas Eve, December 23, 2022

### Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah!



CHURCH

הקהילה מתקדמת

10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **JOY**  
Luke 2:8-20  
Pastor Gary Stump

What is it that truly brings us joy?  
How can we experience more joy during this Christmas and throughout the New Year?

Joy is the recurring theme of the Christmas story

- Zechariah & Elizabeth's Joy
- The Shepherds' Joy
- Mary & Joseph's joy
- Simeon's Joy
- The Angels' Joy
- Anna's Joy

### Let's see if we can understand more about Christmas Joy

"Joy is the simplest form of gratitude." –Karl Barth

"Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls." –Mother Teresa

"Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional. We cannot avoid pain, but we can avoid joy. In the midst of life's hurts, you can choose joy!" –Tim Hansel

CS Lewis—*Surprised by Joy*

"...it is that of an unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction. I call it Joy!" (p 19)

"I had been equally wrong in supposing that I desired Joy itself. Joy itself, considered simply as an event in my own mind, turned out to be of no value at all. All the value lay in that of which Joy was the desiring." (p. 269)

### Joy comes from experiencing the presence of God

*Psalm 16:11 (ESV) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

### Be filled with joy always!

*Philippians 4:4 (NLT) Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!*

### Joy in troubles

*James 1:2 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.*

### Joy during heartache

*2 Corinthians 6:10 (NLT) Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.*

### Inexpressible Joy

*1 Peter 1:8 (NLT) You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.*

### Joy is the fruit of the Spirit

*Galatians 5:22–23a (NIV84) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

"It is a quality, and not simply an emotion, grounded upon God himself and indeed derived from him." (New Bible Dictionary)

OUR TEXT: Luke 2:8-20

## Receiving the JOY

vv. 10b-11, 14 "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."<sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!...<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

- Have you received the joyful news that Salvation has come?

## Experiencing the JOY

vv. 15b-16 "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."<sup>16</sup> They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

- Have you experienced the joy that comes from knowing the Lord?

## Spreading the JOY

v. 17 After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.

- Have you told others about the joy you have experienced in Christ?

## Isaiah described what the shepherds felt

Isaiah 61:10 (NLT) I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels.

### *I heard the Bells on Christmas Day* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

<sup>1</sup> I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

<sup>2</sup> And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

<sup>3</sup> Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

<sup>4</sup> Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

<sup>5</sup> It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

<sup>6</sup> And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

<sup>7</sup> Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

John 15:11 (NLT) "I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"

**SO WHAT?** Have you received the Joy?  
Have you experienced the Joy?  
Will you share the Joy?

Romans 15:13 (NIV84) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



## ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, December 23, 2022

### **1. NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS MORNING. WORSHIP NEW YEAR'S DAY @ 10:30AM**

**2. MARRIAGE RETREAT FEBRUARY 4-5**—Brown County Inn. Reservations must be made by calling Brown County Inn 1-800-772-5249. King rooms - \$116 per night; Queen rooms - \$107 per night. Please give Onward Church promo code 0642 when reserving. Rooms are limited and will only be held until January 5, 2023.

**3. 2023 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR OCTOBER 20-31, 2023**—Walk where Jesus walked and see the Bible come alive as Pastor Gary and our good friend Dr. Moshe Loewenthal lead us on this incredible tour. Estimated cost: \$3,950 per person (double occupancy).

**4. WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASSES—SMALL GROUPS** STARTING JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> 7:00-8:15PM on the **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays** of each month, Adult Small Groups and Children Small Groups will be meeting at church.

**5. NO YOUTH SUNDAY NIGHT**—Youth Group resumes January 8<sup>th</sup>

**6. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING**—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact [nancy1108smith@gmail.com](mailto:nancy1108smith@gmail.com) or 317-508-8149.

**7. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE**—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.

**8. DONATE BIBLES FOR CHRISTMAS** in memory of or in honor of loved ones through the Gideons. See the display on the table in the worship area.

