

Week 3 – Joyful Presence
Sermon Notes
Chad Schuchmann

It can be easy for Merry Christmas to be anything but Merry.

Joy and Happiness are different things

Happiness is dependent on what happens to you, Joy is produced in you.

Joy is something we find through our relationship with Jesus Christ. Joy is a deep sense of God's presence.

“Joy is born out of trust and hope and gratitude and faith in the coming kingdom. We have a reason to rejoice. And it's not denial or innocence or naivety or stupidity. Joy is the affirmation of the truest thing of all: redemption, restoration, reconciliation.”

— Sarah Bessey

Luke 2:8-11 - And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Every one of us is in need of redemption.

Colossians 1:13-14 - He has **delivered** us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. - Luke 2:12-16

God never promised that his joy will be a cure for whatever struggle we are facing, but Joy absolutely can help heal us and give us strength to endure the struggle itself.

Every one of us is going to experience a setback or hardship. Don't let that steal your joy.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. - James 1:2-4

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them – Luke 2:17-18

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. – Philippians 2:1-2

Joy then, is the Outward expression of the inward reality that has taken place. Joy becomes our witness to the world.

Each of us has a story to tell, a message to share, a savior to introduce to others, so that they too may experience Joy through Redemption, Restoration, and Reconciliation.

Because of Christ's presence, joy is made available to all people—and that includes you.