

Sermon Title: The Gift That Keeps on Giving: Joy
There is a lot of talk today about “Do what makes you happy!”
What is something that makes you happy?

- But there’s a problem with things that just make you happy, they are temporary.
- Happiness is defined as a more fleeting emotion, often sparked by a particular moment or event that brings a sense of excitement or exhilaration.
- Joy, on the other hand, is defined as a more long-lasting state of being, characterized by contentment and satisfaction with life overall.

The sources of our happiness are temporary, so happiness is temporary, but the source of our joy is the eternal God who was, is, and will always be; so our joy is eternal.

3 Places that joy comes from:

1. Matt 1:20-21. Joy comes from our salvation in Jesus Christ.
2. Luke 2:10-11. Joy comes from Immanuel on that first Christmas Day!
3. Matt 2:10. Joy comes from God’s promise fulfilled.

Some of you might be asking, “How come I don’t feel joy right now?”

- The world would tell you to strive to have joy, to do something different, to try to achieve it. But if joy comes from the Lord, instead of striving for it, you should retreat into God’s presence.
- You can’t buy joy, you can’t manifest joy, you can only renew your mind around God’s truth.

This advent season is all about anticipation!

- God’s people waited hundreds of years for their Messiah to be born and he was finally in Bethlehem, in a manger because there was no room in the inn.
- Even today, over 2000 years after he came to earth, we still anticipate Jesus.

Challenge:

- Before you leave church today, think about what you might need, to read the Bible or pray or spend more time learning about Jesus, to make sure you know the real reason for the season!

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Passages for the Screen:

Matt 1:20-21. - “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Luke 2:10-11. - “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Good news of great joy for all people, the savior, Jesus Christ was born!

Matt 2:10. - “When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy”!