

The God who lifts us up

12/14/25 – Pastor Zach

Psalm 113:7-8, Isaiah 1:48, Luke 10:20, 28:20, Eph 2:4-6, 2 Cor. 4:17

Connect: What was one of your favorite Christmas traditions growing up? Were you ever a part of a Christmas program and do you have memories of that time? What was it like for you?

Engage: Re Read Psalm 113. What stands out to you this time you read it?

Advent joy flows from God's character – what part of God's character brings the most joy?

There is no worldly items or situation change that is going to give us joy. Where have you tried to find joy in things or situations? What was that like for you? Joy means gladness, delight, celebration of God's saving grace? Where have you experienced true joy?

Where have you had the attitude that you deserve happiness?

Zach talked about 4 invitations of Joy.

1. Joy meets us in the ash heap.
 - a. What does that mean to you?
 - b. How does that make you feel?

Fredrick Buechner- Joy hides itself in the most unlikely places – Where have you experienced this in your life, or have you felt that it is elusive to you?

2. Joy is in God's rescue.
 - a. Where have you experienced joy in being rescued from your life of sin?
3. Joy is in God's adoption,
 - a. Where do you experience joy knowing you a child of God?
 - b. Read Eph 2:4-6
 - c. Where do you know of someone who has adopted a child – what does that look like for the parents?
4. Joy in God's promises. Psalm 16:11
 - a. What promise you are hanging on to that you believe God will answer?
 - b. Waiting brings up an ache- Can you wait like Simeon? How does waiting look for you?

Apply: What is the invitation for you this week? Where do you need to press into Joy this Christmas season? Where can you be a carrier of Joy this Christmas season to someone who needs to experience joy.

