

ROCKY RIVER CHURCH
FINDING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS
ADVENT: WEEK #3 – CANDLE OF JOY
HIDDEN CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 14, 2025
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□ The **BIG IDEA** of today's message: True joy doesn't come from perfect circumstances but from the **GOOD NEWS** of who Jesus is and what God has done.

FOCUS TEXT – LUKE 2:1-20 (NIV)

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on
earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

FOUR WAYS TO BRING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS INTO YOUR LIFE:

#1. Receive the _____ (stop waiting for life to be perfect).

“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” -Luke 2:10

#2. Move _____ (don’t just think about Him).

“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.’” -Luke 2:15

#3. Tell others _____ (joy multiplies when you speak it).

*“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.”
-Luke 2:17*

#4. Carry joy _____ (joy lasts when worship becomes a lifestyle).

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God.” -Luke 2:20

This Week’s Advent Reading Guide – Theme: Joy

- Day 1 – Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- Day 2 – Isaiah 12:2-6, Psalm 16:5-11, Luke 1:46-55
- Day 3 – Zephaniah 3:14-17, Romans 15:13
- Day 4 – Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 30, James 1:2-4
- Day 5 – Nehemiah 8:9-12, Psalm 98, Luke 2:8-14
- Day 6 – Habakkuk 3:17-19, Psalm 34:1-8, 2 Corinthians 6:8-10
- Day 7 – Psalm 145:17-21, Revelation 21:1-5, John 16:20-22

