



## Rejoice! - Candlelight Service

December 23-24, 2022

We have more to share. Text **CONNECT** to **888-644-4034**

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## Christmas Reading


### I. We are here to REJOICE!

**Psalm 98:4-6** (NIV) **4** Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;

**5** make music to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,

**6** with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—  
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

### II. God knows our longing

 Christmas is a celebration that God speaks to HIS people!

**1 Peter 2:9** **9** But you are **a chosen people**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light..

 We celebrate because God values us - [You Are Chosen](#)

### III. Not the first to be Chosen

**Luke 2:1-20** (NIV) *The Nativity in Bethlehem*

Mary & Joseph - Angels & Animals - Shepherds & Magi

Today, we came because we were prompted by the spirit of God.

John 3:16 (NIV) **16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

 We celebrate - [We Respond to God](#) - Chosen to Participate

### Listen to Peter's Recommendation:

**1 Peter 3:15-18** (NIV) **15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. **17** For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

**Luke 2:1-20** (NIV) *The Nativity in Bethlehem* **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.