

# Advent: Joy

Pastor Jim Thomas

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## SERMON NOTES

### Advent 2020

“Advent” - arrival or appearance

### TVC’s foci for Advent 2020

- Advent Love
- Advent Joy
- Advent Hope
- Advent Peace



### Advent Joy

John 15:1-11

### 7 “I AM” statements of Jesus Christ in John’s Gospel

- I AM the Bread of life: John 6:35, 48, 51
- I AM the Light of the world: John 8:12; 9:5
- I AM the Door/gate: John 10:7, 9
- I AM the Good Shepherd: John 10:11, 14
- I AM the Resurrection and the Life: John 11:25
- I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life: John 14:6
- I AM the True Vine: John 15:1, 5

“You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.”

- *Psalm 80:8-9*

“My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit....

The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight.”

- *Isaiah 5:1-2, 7*

## **Fullness of joy can not be acquired for its own sake.**

### **John 15: 1-11**

Fullness of joy is the result of...

1. Knowing who Christ is (v. 1-4)
2. Recognizing who we are (v. 5)
3. Abiding in Christ (v. 6-7)
4. Fruitfulness (v. 8-11)

*"If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mudpies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."*

- C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

*"Joy is a pervasive sense – not just a thought – of well-being: of overall and ultimate well-being. Its primary feeling component is delight in an encompassing good well-secured."*

- Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*

*"Happiness tends to be individual; we measure it by asking, are you happy? Joy tends to be self transcending. Happiness is something you pursue; joy is something that rises up unexpectedly and sweeps over you. Happiness comes from accomplishments; joy comes from offering gifts. Happiness fades; we get used to the things that used to make us happy. Joy doesn't fade. To live with joy it is to live with wonder, gratitude, and hope."*

- David Brooks, *The Second Mountain*

*"In a nutshell, abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections. In other words, our relationship to Christ is intimately connected to what we do with our Bibles!"*

- Sinclair Ferguson

*"The branch of the vine does not worry, and toil, and rush here to seek for sunshine, and there to find rain. No; it rests in union and communion with the vine; and at the right time, and in the right way, is the right fruit found on it. Let us so abide in the Lord Jesus."*

- James Hudson Taylor