

Advent: Joy

Pastor Jim Thomas

December 5, 2021



SERMON NOTES

Advent Joy in Christ Jesus!

In Christ God has offered us:

- Unconditional Love
- Unquenchable Joy
- Unbounded Hope
- Unshakeable Peace

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- Because of the **LOVE** of God for sinners,
 - He sent Christ to bring us the **JOY** of salvation,
 - The **HOPE** of eternal life,
 - And the **PEACE** of God to rule our hearts.
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Luke 1:26-56

- The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)
- Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)
- The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56)

Unquenchable joy is the fruit of...

1. Receiving God's grace (v. 30; Greek = *charis*)
2. Resolved to God's will (v. 38)
3. Remaining connected with God's people (v. 39-45)
4. Rejoicing in God (v. 46-55; *Magnificat*)

"We deplete our joy by forgetting what we should remember and by remembering what we should forget."

- Alistair Begg



Painting: The Annunciation by Hans Memling, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

“A man can no more take in a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough today to last him for the next six months, nor can he inhale sufficient air into his lungs with one breath to sustain life for a week to come. We are permitted to draw upon God’s store of grace from day to day as we need it.”

- Dwight L. Moody

“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 around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies 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*

“The worship of a local church has an indispensable role in building up the faith and the discipleship of its members. When it is vital, participatory, expectant and attractive, the whole congregation grows strong and steady in the Lord.”

- David Prior

“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever.”

- *Psalm 16:11*

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

- *John 15:11*

“Martin Luther used to say that to comfort a desponding spirit is as difficult as to raise the dead; but, then, we have a God who both raises the dead from their graves and His people from their despair.”

- Charles H. Spurgeon

“What if, at the end of history, the question God asks us is not whether we abstained from sin. What if the question is, ‘Did you enter into the joy that was available to you?’”

- Pastor Rich Villodas, New Life Fellowship Church, New York City