



Sermon: The Song of Joy

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55, Luke 2:10-14, Exodus 33:15

Big Idea: Lasting joy is found in God's presence, and Jesus fulfills the promise of God's presence with us.

Key Thought: We can have everything, but everything is nothing without God's presence.

Introduction: The Holiday season is known as a season of joy worldwide, but many people are clinging to a facade of joy, masked by experiences that won't last and gifts that will lose their appeal. All of this is happening while people are experiencing the tension of a divisive culture and the brokenness of a world tainted by sin. But there is **good news of great joy! Christ has come, and when we know God is truly with us, we can find true, lasting joy.**

1. Lasting Joy is only found in God's presence (Exodus 33:15).

Exodus 33:15 NLT

"Then Moses said, 'If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place.'"

2. Jesus is the fulfilled promise of God's promise (Luke 1:46-55).

Luke 1:46-55 NLT

Mary responded: "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

48 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

49 For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.

50 He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.

51 His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

- 52 He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.
- 53 He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
- 54 He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.
- 55 For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.

3. You are invited to come and see.

Luke 10:10-14 NLT

10 “Then Moses said, ‘If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place.’” but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **11** The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **12** And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” **13** Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying **14** “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

Life Application Questions:

1. When you think of moments of great joy, what moments come to mind?
2. Are there moments in your life when you have forgotten the joy of the Lord in pursuit of something you thought would bring you joy?
3. Why was Mary so joyful about the news of Jesus? How should Mary’s response and the shepherds’ response to the news of Jesus shape our response this advent season?
4. How does the news of Jesus bring Joy in the lives of those who have experienced suffering and loss?
5. During the season that is most saturated with distractions, how can you practically keep your focus on the joy that’s found only in Jesus?