

MANNACHURCH SERMON NOTES

The Gifts of Christmas

December 24, 2023

Christmas Joy

And in the same region, there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an **angel of the Lord appeared to them**, and the **glory of the Lord shone around them**, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “**Fear not**, for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is **Christ the Lord**. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**” (Luke 2:8-14)

1. The Joy of Unexpected _____. (Angels, Shepherds, Magi)

– Hebrews 13:2

– Proverbs 25:25

2. The Joy of Indescribable _____.

– Isaiah 9:2

– 1 Corinthians 2:9

3. The Joy of an Inconceivable _____.

– 2 Corinthians 4:4

– Luke 4:18-19

4. The Joy of Inexpressible _____.

– Luke 2:20

– 1 Peter 1:8-9

Today's Bottom Line

**Joy to the world the King has come,
Let Earth receive her King!**

Reflect and Respond

1. Take some time this week to reflect and share some of your fondest Christmas memories with family and friends.
 2. Reach out and express your gratitude to those whose lives positively impacted your own.
 3. Remember to “be present” with those you love this week (invest in real “Facetime” and let your chats be filled with joy and good news.)
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At Manna Church

We believe Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, possesses all the divine excellencies, being co-substantial and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In His incarnation, He united to His divine nature a true human nature and so continues to be both God and man, in two distinct natures and one person, forever. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, fulfilled the requirements of the law by His sinless life, suffered under Pontius Pilate, poured out His blood as a vicarious and propitiatory atonement for sin in satisfaction of the divine justice, and on the third day was raised from the dead in the same body, now glorified. He ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father interceding in Glory for His redeemed.

What's Next?

- **24th Christmas Eve Service (tonight) 5 pm**
- **31st New Year's (Sunday) Service ONLINE only.**
<https://mannachurchsanford.online.church/>
- **January 1-21 “Churchwide Prayer and Fasting.”**

Prayer Gatherings in the Worship Center
 - Prayer 07:30-08:30 (Tuesday-Friday)
 - Wednesday Eve 6:30-7:30 pm
 - Sunday 08:30
- **January 7th Communion**
 - The “Firsts” series begins