

Advent: The Coming of Our Savior // JOY

What does the face of joy look like? Someone who won the lottery? Robbie Gould after kicking the winning field goal against the Bears on Sunday? An animated character from Inside Out? *Show image.* A teacher over Christmas break? A castaway saved from a deserted island? A child, or Elf, at Christmas after Santa has come? *Show image.* A homeless person with a hot meal and a warm bed?

Today, as we continue our series, “Advent: The Coming of Our Savior”, we look at JOY. Google says, “Joy is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.” But, if you’re like me, you often are joyless, not joyful. So, where does joy come from? Well, XARA is the Greek word for joy. And, XARIS is the Greek word for grace. Thus, joy, like charisma, character, thankfulness, charity, etc. all flow from God’s grace!

For example, Psalm 100:4b-5 (ESV) says, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” In the story of Christ our Savior’s birth, every single character felt the joy! This joy came from knowing the goodness, love, and faithfulness from God to us in Christ!

But, this joy is also for us! In **Luke 2:10-11 (ESV)**, an angel of the Lord said to the shepherds, “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.” This is why Nehemiah believed, “The joy of the Lord is my strength!”, why joy is a fruit of the Spirit, and why we sing, “Joy to the World!”

And, this joy continues into Easter and eternity! **Hebrews 12:2b (ESV)** says, “Jesus, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” In response, **Hebrews 12:2a (ESV)** says, “Look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” May we look to Jesus this Christmas, be filled with joy, and share Him with ALL!

Let's pray! Lord God, in **Philippians 4:4 (ESV)**, Paul says, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” In **1 Thessalonians 5:16 (ESV)**, he says, “Rejoice always.” Lord, this Advent/Christmas, help us know Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world. Help us receive Him as the good news of great joy that is for all the people. And, help us share Him with the world we live in.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

“26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!’ 29But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ 34And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’ 35And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.’ 38And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the ser-

vant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.
And the angel departed from her.” - Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Message Series

Advent - The Coming of Our Savior

Message Topic

Joy

Message Points

NOTES:

Memory Verse

“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.”
- Luke 2:10-11 (ESV)

Small Group Questions

- Besides Jesus, what’s the one thing in your life that brings you the most joy, something that literally puts a smile on your face every time?
- Read Psalm 100. What do these verses teach us about being joyful in our life? Where should this joyfulness in our life come from?

- Read Luke 1:1-80. As you read through, where do you find joy in the story? What does the joy look like? Where does the joy come from?
- Read Luke 2:1-21. What is this “good news of great joy that will be for all the people”? Does this bring you joy? Who do you know that needs Jesus?
- Read Philippians 2:1-11, Hebrews 12:1-2. Why does the story of Christmas continue on through Easter and into eternal life forever?

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Children's Message

Boys and girls, this morning, we continue the season of Advent. Does anyone remember what that word, Advent, means? *Take answers.*

The word "Advent" means "Coming" or "Arrival". During Advent, we look forward to the coming or arrival of Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior.

Over here, I have an Advent wreath. Each week, we will be lighting a candle. Week one, we lit the first purple candle, called the "Hope" and/or "Prophecy" candle. Week two, we lit the second purple candle, called the "Love" and/or "Bethlehem" candle. Does anyone know what this third pink candle is called? *Take answers.*

This third Sunday of Advent, the candle lit is the "Shepherd's" Candle. We light it in remembrance of the JOY we get from God in Jesus Christ. Ok. Who wants to help me light it! *Have one of them help light.*

Let's pray. Lord, Thank you for Advent/Christmas. Thank you for the arrival of Jesus. Help us ALL to look with anticipation for the coming of our Savior, Jesus.