

ADVENT GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!

Behold Him
The End Begins Here

SERMON RESOURCE



Our Liturgy

The Lord is here — His Spirit is with us.
Where the Spirit of the Lord is — there is Freedom!

CONNECT

— 15 MINUTES

Briefly share with each other the ways you have experienced joy recently or ways it has been challenging for you to tap into joy.

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

"The good news is that joy is not an emotion we conjure up or are obligated to generate. Joy becomes the lived experience of those living aware of the presence of Jesus in the midst of disappointment, challenge, and difficulty, as well as in the times of profound sweetness."

Remember: Promises of Joy

Read:

- Luke 1:78-79; 2:8-10
- Isaiah 35:3-4, 10
- Which of these promises speaks most deeply to you today? Why?
- Sometimes we resist encouragement. Have you ever felt that pull? What do you think is underneath that resistance?
- Joy becomes the lived experience of those who live aware of the presence of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. What hales you cultivate an awareness of His presence?

Anticipation: Joy in the Revelation of Jesus

There are four main themes of joy in the book of Revelation

1. Joy in Salvation & Deliverance

- Read Revelation 1:4-6
- John is writing joyfully from exile—what does this tell you about the nature of joy?
- How do you experience joy in the revelation of being freed from sin?

2. Joy in God's Justice & Mercy

- Read Revelation 18





- Babylon offers 'escapist joy' through comfort, success, pleasure, etc. Where do you feel this pull in your life?
- Where and how do you think God is practically calling you to, "Come away, my people..."?
- How does this message of God's justice actually fuel joy rather than fear?

3. Joy in the Marriage of the Lamb

- Read Revelation 19:1-2, 6-9
- What part of the wedding feast imagery stir joy or longing in you?
- How does seeing yourself as "the Bride" shape your identity and choices?

4. Joy in a New City, All Things made New

- Read Revelation 21:1-4
- Which of these promises bring you the deepest comfort today?
- How does this bring joy in the midst of your current circumstances?

Prepare — Make Room for Joy

Read:

- Matthew 1:23
- John 15:9-11
- Psalm 16:11
- Jesus says that His desire is that our joy would overflow. How is this connected to abiding, or cultivating awareness of His presence with you right now?
- Have you ever found yourself resisting joy until life looks like you want?





— 20 MINUTES

APPLICATION

We have a built-in negativity bias, but joy can be imprinted when we pause for 14 seconds and let a moment or memory of goodness sink in.

- Read aloud: Revelation 21:1-7
- Sit quietly for 14 seconds and behold the imagery of this passage.
- Let gratitude, joy, and comfort rise without resisting.
- What did you notice in that brief pause?
- How could this become a simple advent practice?

Going Deeper

Build new neural pathways for a more joyful mindset and greater resilience:

- Set yourself a reminder to pause at the beginning and end of each day this week.
- Spend a very intentional 14 minutes remembering a moment of goodness and grace.
- Allow the joy, comfort, and gratitude arise without resisting.
- Spend time thanking and praising God for His goodness.

