

# December 15, 2024

The Promise of Joy

Pastor Brian Greenleaf



**Luke 2:1-20, Philippians 4:4-8, James 1:2-4, John 15:5, 11**

## **Luke 2:1-20: Joy provided**

1. Do not be \_\_\_\_\_
2. Spreading the \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ joy

## **Philippians 4:4-8: Joy found**

1. Give \_\_\_\_\_
2. Draw near to God in \_\_\_\_\_
3. Curate your \_\_\_\_\_

## **James 1:2-4: Joy working (why trials)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Sermon Talks

1. What caught your attention in this week's message? Was there something you had never heard before or something you had a question about?
2. What are you looking forward to most this Christmas season?
3. A neuroscientist once said that it takes just three seconds for a negative memory to imprint on the brain, but fourteen seconds for a positive one. Why do you think that is? Why are we so apt to focus on all that is wrong in the world?
4. Where is the joy of the Lord evident in your life this season?
5. How can the good news of the Gospel bring great joy to someone?
6. Read John 15:1-11.
  - How can you stay connected to the vine and allow all parts of this Advent season to unfold in their own way?
  - What does Jesus mean in verse 11 when He says, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete?"
  - What do you think that completed joy looks like?
7. Read Luke's account of the "Birth of Jesus Foretold." (Luke 1:26-38)
  - In verse 38, why do you think Mary said what she said? What gave her the confidence to say that?
  - What if you were to personalize that statement as Mary did. How can you walk with God in that posture this Christmas season?
8. Read James 1:2-4, 12, and 21-25.
  - What were some trials you have experienced and how were you able to persevere?
  - Were you able to see the Lord's hand in the situation?
  - How can someone experience joy in the middle of a trial?
9. What can you decide, claim, or surrender today that will allow you to have an unwavering spirit of love and joy at Christmas?