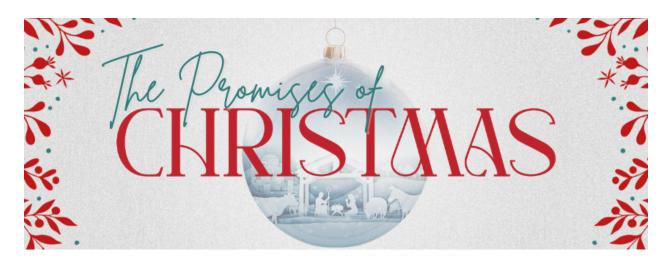
December 15, 2024

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?