



## God With Us: Joy in Relationship

December 18-19, 2021

**Speaker:** Pastor Robb Schmidgall

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-12

### **Series Overview:**

Advent is a season of preparation. A season of anticipation!  
A season of Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy, and we need more of all four!

### **Series Discussion Questions:**

How is God working around me in this season to show me His Peace, Hope, Love and Joy?

### **Message Overview:**

We often miss out on the fullness of joy because of our misconception of joy in relation to everything else we experience in life. In the story of the coming of Jesus, and then throughout His life and into the life of the early church we see JOY in relationship to the rest of life. Getting this right could be the next step to your joy being made full.

### **Message-Specific Discussion Questions:**

What do we control in our ability to experience true, deep meaningful joy?

#### **The enemy of joy**

- The enemy of joy is fear.
- Anxiety comes from fear
- Do we mask or rename fear in our lives? We must look these things in the eye, to allow the joy of the Lord to have its work in our lives.

#### **The friends of joy**

- Sorrow
  - Read Psalm 126:5 and Psalm 30:11
  - Remember the example of Jesus
  - God does not always explain our suffering, but He shares it

- Perseverance
  - Read Hebrews 12:2
  - Reframe what the purpose of hardship is
  - It gives us an energy and drive to continue to trust God's guidance
- Questions
  - Read John 16:16-22
  - Having questions is essential to an honest relationship.
  - Asking questions is what moves us forward toward God
  - Satisfaction comes from asking the right questions, not necessarily having all the answers
- How can we redirect our relationship to the challenges & unknowns of life?

*“Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.  
And the self-same well from which your laughter rises, was oftentimes filled with your tears.”*  
Rene' Descartes

### What produces joy?

- Gratitude
  - Read and reflect on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
  - Avoid comparative gratefulness
  - Seek an appreciation of who we are in Christ
- Trust
  - Read and reflect on Romans 15:13
  - Trust over fear; The “ok-ness” function should be linked to trusting in God's abundance
  - Pray like it depends on God, work like it depends on me...and not being defined by the outcome, no matter what. What are some ways you can practice giving away control?
- Service
  - Read and reflect on John 15:11
  - Joy is not achieved in the pursuit of happiness, but the pursuit of purpose

### What is the purpose of joy?

- To give it away
- Read Nehemiah 8:10
- Where can we give and create joy, where there is not a goal of reciprocation?

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me recognize what in my life I am trying to control. Please replace these spaces with your joy! Help me experience a deep joy from giving it away to those you place in my path.*

### Practical Application

- Keep a daily rhythm of renewal and resilience in the middle of the hustle and bustle. Connecting with what God is doing around us, through a short daily devotional. Download the [NCC app](#) or go to [ncc.re/daily](http://ncc.re/daily).
- Review the verses in this week's sermon discussion guide. Write down in your journal one thing that God is showing you to reframe joy, in this season of life.
- Start the day with positive encouragement, in a prayerful virtual gathering by joining the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. **Register at** [ncc.re/UpperZoom](http://ncc.re/UpperZoom)