

Joy To The World!

Come and Adore Him

Isaiah 12:2-6

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

REFLECTION

In this third week of Advent, we focus on the theme of joy. Though our default behavior as humans is to be the center of our own plans and joy, our experiences with joy are always about a story bigger than ourselves. **When have you experienced joy? In what ways has it been bigger than just your story?**

Isaiah, in these words written about 700 years before the birth of Christ, offers us a framework for our joy in two different parts. In the first half of the passage, he implores us to rejoice in the salvation that has been given to us. **How do you need to more freely accept and celebrate God's forgiveness in your life?** The second half reminds us that we are not only forgiven, but called to be witnesses to the great love of God. **How can you be prepared to tell your story, letting others know of God's love for them?**

At the heart of the Christmas story lies a God who holds nothing back, but sends his son into a world to radiate the fullness of his love. Stepping into this kind of generosity can posture us to receive and experience joy. **This week, how can you be generous with your time, words, and attitude? Make note of how stepping into these opportunities brings you joy by being part of something bigger than yourself.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love that is so vast and so much bigger than our minds can comprehend. May we posture ourselves this week to receive joy through extravagant generosity. Amen.