



Advent | Joy 12/17/2023

Reflect + Discuss

- What are some examples of things, big or small, that bring you joy?
- Read Luke 2:8-14. What do you think it would have been like to be one of the shepherds? In your own words, what was the good news the angels were bringing?
- Read Luke 2:15-20. How did the shepherds respond to everything they had seen and heard? Why did they respond this way? Have you ever had an experience that caused you to cry tears of joy? What happened and what was that like for you?
- Read John 14:18 and John 14:26. In what ways do you experience the tension of living in between the “already” and “not yet?” As we navigate life in a broken world, how can the birth of Jesus and his promised return help us to tap into real joy today?
- What are some practical ways we can seek joy in Christ during this Advent season? Are there people in your life that you can share the good news with this Christmas? Consider who you might invite to a Christmas eve service.

Pray

- Pray that God will meet us in the areas of our lives where we are feeling the tension of living in between the “already” and the “not yet.” Pray for God’s help as we lean together into Christ for a joy found only in Him.

Next Steps

- Consider ways we can encourage others during this Advent season. If you or someone you know is experiencing a season of hopelessness, let them know about the Blue Christmas service.
- Check out the [resources page](#) for links to several Bible reading plans and other helpful tools. Explore other opportunities for growth and transformation by checking out [courses](#) for the fall.