

The Third Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 14, 2025

“The Light is Coming ~ Rejoicing in the Light”

Isaiah 61:1-11 & John 1:6-8, 19-28

There’s something _____, even rebellious, about joy. What I mean by that is, joy doesn’t wait for _____ circumstances, it grows right in the middle of imperfect ones. Real joy isn’t found in the absence of pain, but in the presence of _____ in the midst of pain.

These two passages show us that joy isn’t something we _____, it’s something we _____ when the light of Christ shines into the dark places of our lives.

3 TRUTHS ABOUT REJOICING IN THE LIGHT

Truth #1. We rejoice in the _____.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” (Isaiah 61:1-3)

Isaiah Chapters 56–66 speaks to Israel after the Babylonian exile, after the people had returned _____ only to discover that “home” wasn’t what it used to be.

The people’s hope was worn thin, and they were _____ and spiritually fragile. They had returned physically, but not emotionally or _____.

It’s into this reality that Isaiah dares to announce a bold, _____-soaked proclamation of good news. Not because life is easy, but because God is _____.

Isaiah’s words here aren’t a pep talk for weary exiles, but a prophecy that points straight to _____.

The heart of Advent joy isn’t just emotion—it’s _____. Joy doesn’t depend on our circumstances, but on _____ has entered into our circumstances. And, this often comes when we _____ expect it.

Isaiah goes on to paint a stunning picture of _____, every phrase here is a _____:

- Ashes become _____.
- Mourning turns to _____.
- Despair becomes _____.

This is the economy of _____: wherever sin or sorrow has left devastation,

God _____ with beauty.

We see that most vividly at the _____, where the darkest place in history became the birthplace of _____, the place of death became the way to life.

God doesn’t _____ what’s shattered and broken. He gathers the broken pieces of our lives and He restores, _____, and re-purposes them, and in His hands, they become something more beautiful than before.

When we realize God can bring _____ out of what we thought was beyond repair, joy isn’t something we chase—it’s something that _____ in us like light through stained glass.

Joy, then, isn’t the denial of _____—it’s the declaration that God is _____. It’s what happens when we realize that _____ has the last word over guilt and shame, that light outshines darkness, and that the Messiah has already come to set the captives _____.

When we live with that kind of joy, it becomes _____.

The world doesn’t need to see Christians who have it all together, it needs to see Christians who know they’ve been _____.

Truth #2. We rejoice in the _____.

“They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.” (Isaiah 61:4)

Isaiah’s vision shifts from what God announces to what God _____. From the God who promises to the God who _____. He doesn’t just bring comfort to the brokenhearted, He rebuilds what was _____.

The people who once sat in ashes now pick up the tools of _____. The same Spirit that anoints the Messiah empowers His people to participate in His _____.

When God’s Spirit fills a life, He doesn’t simply forgive sin, He begins to restore dignity, _____, and community. This is the _____ joy of grace, that turns receivers of mercy into agents of _____.

“For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing....” (Isaiah 61:8)

Joy and justice aren’t opposites, they’re _____, they go hand in hand. True joy in the Spirit always leads to _____ in action.

The world's version of joy often comes at someone else's expense, God's joy brings _____ to others. That's what makes the Church's joy so radical: it's not self-centered, it's _____. The Spirit who brings comfort also stirs _____.

Courage to stand for what's _____, to love the least, to mend what's broken, to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. That's the kind of joy that _____ hearts, lives, and communities.

"He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness." (Isaiah 61:10)

This isn't joy that we drum up, it's joy we _____. It's not something we feel from within, it's something God _____ around us.

God takes away the garments of _____ and dresses us in His own _____.

This isn't pride, it's _____. It's a joy that comes from knowing, "I'm not what I was, and it's all because of Him."

God doesn't just _____ who we are, He restores what we were meant to _____. He scrapes away the layers of sin and shame until the light of Christ _____ through us again.

We rejoice, not just because God saved us _____, but because He's still saving us _____. He's rebuilding what _____ destroyed. He's repairing what years of pain or neglect have ruined. He's restoring the _____ of Christ in His people.

Joy isn't escapism, it's _____. It's seeing the _____ of God on ordinary life and saying, "He's here."

Truth #3. We rejoice in the _____.

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to bear witness to the light." (John 1:6-8)

John the Baptist understood his _____: he was not the source of light, he was the _____ of it. He didn't need to be the centre of attention, he only needed to _____ to the One who was

True joy always looks _____. It doesn't hoard the light, it _____ it.

joy doesn't depend on _____, it depends on _____. John knew he was sent from God, and so are we.

We often lose our joy when we start _____ our light to someone else's. However, John's joy was found in doing his part, no more, no less, and leaving the _____ to God.

That's the secret of lasting joy in ministry and life: _____ that points people to _____ instead of drawing them to ourselves. Why? Because when we truly know who Jesus is, when we've encountered His _____ and seen His transforming power, we can't help but _____ about it.

Joy makes _____ out of worshippers because when our heart is full of the light of Christ, it naturally _____.

We may not all stand in pulpits or cross oceans, but we can each hold the light _____ in whatever corner of the world God has placed us. And when we do, that light, His light, _____ the darkness with a brightness that can never be _____!

When Christ increases in us, our joy doesn't diminish, it _____. Because the more we _____ Him, the more we become who we were _____ to be.



God steps into the places that feel cracked, _____, or overlooked, and He brings forth unexpected _____—life that leads us not merely to feel joy, but to rejoice in the _____ who brings it.

Joy is rooted in God's redeeming work, not in our _____. Our lives may bear scars, the world may seem unsteady, but God is _____ to His promises.

Joy isn't something we _____, it's something that rises when we realize what _____ is doing in us and through us.

Joy doesn't _____ the darkness in our lives, but _____ right through it.

When grace meets us in _____ places, not imagined ones, joy isn't something we force, it's something that _____. It's something that _____ us. It's something we _____ because the Light has drawn near.

This is the joy of Advent: Not a shallow _____, but the deep, steady _____ that comes from knowing the King has come, and is coming again.