

Christmas Joy

is deeper than Seasonal Happiness

Luke 2: 8-21

Christies Beach Baptist Church
December 12, 2021
Stephen Spence

Luke 2: 8- 20

And Mary gave
birth to Jesus...



"...I am bringing you **good news of great joy** for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord..."

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace [God's *shalom*]
among those whom he favors!"

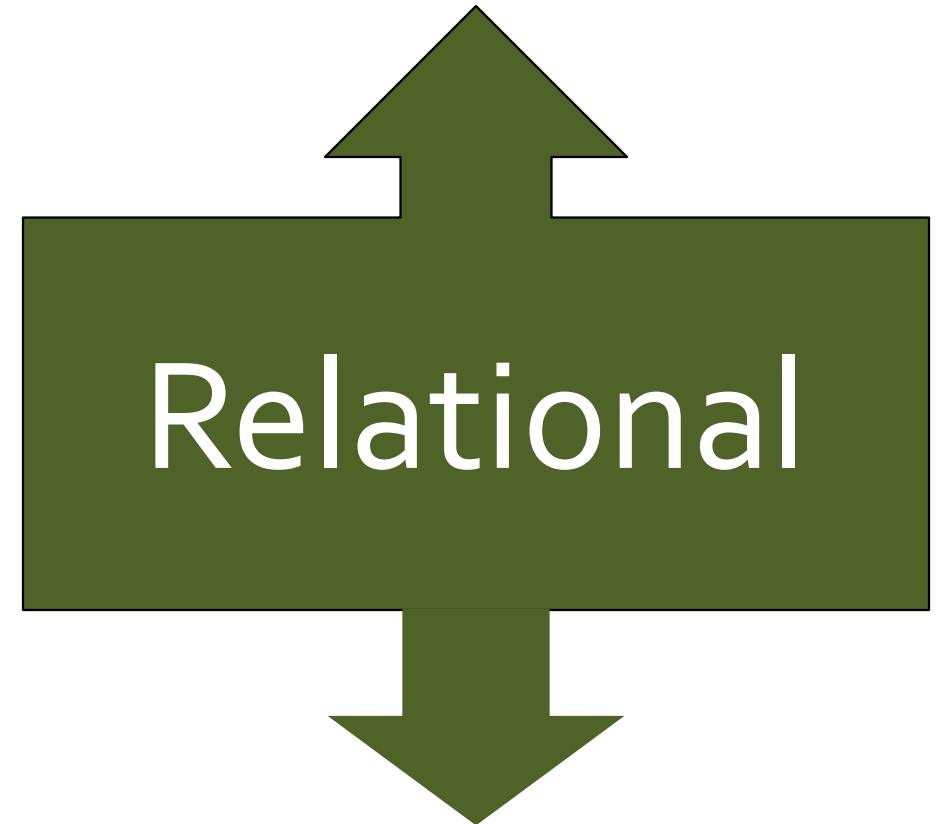


Happy



Sad

Joy



Grief ?

"For the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, ..." (Gal 5:22-23)

Good News of great joy...

Luke 2:10

“...I am bringing you **good news of great joy** for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord...”



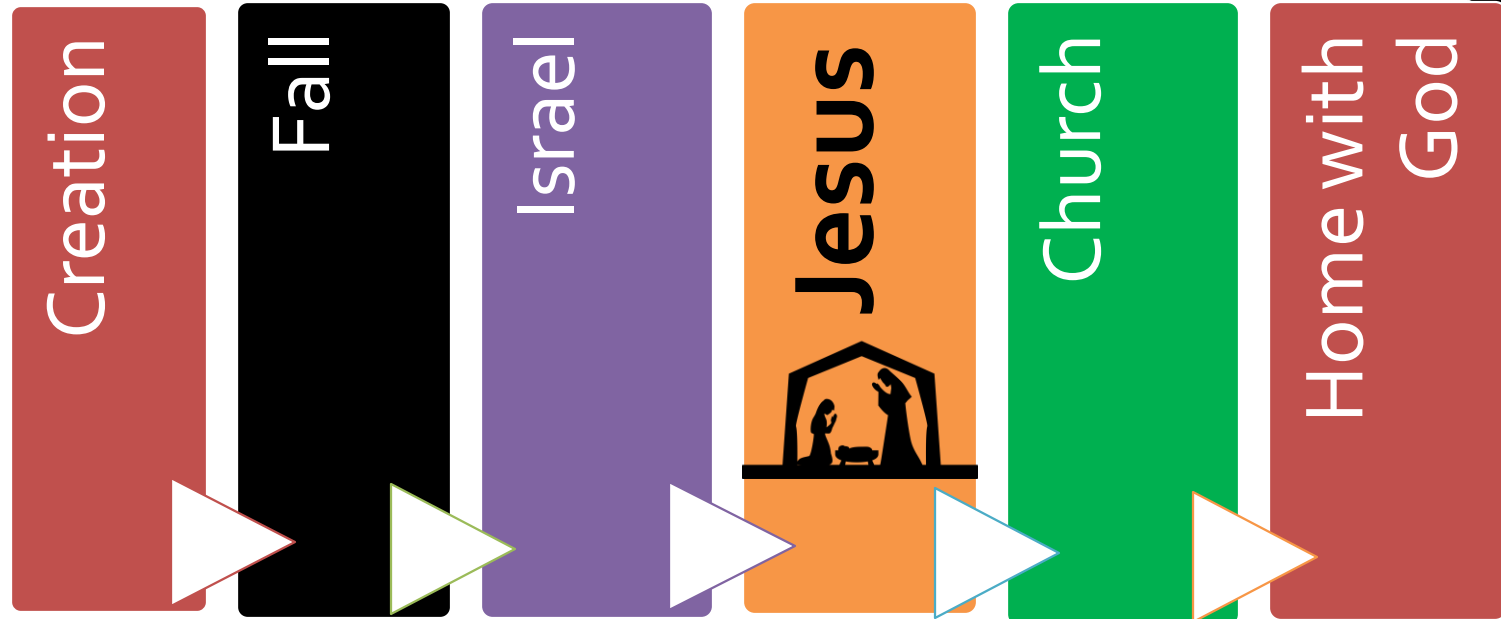
“Joy is, for Luke, a characteristic of faith that recognises that salvation history is marching forward. Luke attaches great importance to this joy, which is personal and communal...”

(F Bovon, Lukan scholar)

Good News of great joy...

Luke 2:10

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The Bible is a Good News story of Salvation History. God has made a way for all prodigals to come home.

...for all the
people...

Luke 2:10



What ?!
Shepherds

Mary and Joseph (an embarrassment to their families)
Elizabeth and Zechariah (believed to be godforsaken)
Shepherds (workers of "low regard")
Magi (priests of a foreign religion)
Tax-collectors (socially excluded)
Sinners (religiously excluded)

?!

**...for all the
people...**

Luke 15

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And **the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling** and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them!" (Luke 15:1-2)

- Rejoice with me, for I have found...that [which] was lost.' (15:6)
- Rejoice with me, for I have found ...that [which] I had lost.' (15:9)
- I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (15: 7, 10)

**"Shared pain is half the pain;
shared joy is twice the joy."**

German proverb.

... a Saviour,
who is Christ
the Lord...

Luke 2:11

When we unwrap God's Christmas gift of salvation we discover the joy of **a relationship with a Saviour** who is both the Christ and the Lord.



Christmas
Prayer of
Joy

God our Saviour,

*We join with the angels in heaven and your saints
across time and place to proclaim, Gloria!...*

We rejoice...

Benediction

Writing to the Church in Philippi, the Apostle Paul challenged Christians with these words,

Finally, my brothers and sisters, **rejoice** in the Lord. (3:1)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, **Rejoice!** (4:4)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

The Lord be with you, today and forever more. Amen.