

Joy to the World

Luke 2 8-11

*“Love divine all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down”
Hymn #2 from...”Great Hymns of the Faith*

Into the Lesson:

As a poignant counterpoint to the Joy of the Nativity, read Matthew 2:7-16 while humming “Joy to the World” and try to imagine the devastation brought on by this madman.

Now to reset, what are some of your favorite family traditions:

- Driving around to look at the lights-
- Going into the mountains to cut your Christmas tree-
- Copious amounts of Christmas cookies-
- Watching favorite Christmas movies-

As Lane pointed out, many of our traditions have no Biblical basis. Does this diminish in any way ours or other’s celebration?

Into the Word:

Apart from the whole of Passion Week, what do you think Jesus, the man, would have missed most about Heaven?

Spend some time focusing on this profound truth from Lane’s sermon “...And our salvation cost Him everything... REDEMPTION”.

How would the reality of John 1:1-5 been a difficult concept to grasp for even the staunchest believer?

How would the nation of Israel, who haven’t heard from God in centuries have responded to Isaiah 7:14? This news is of great joy different from any of the news they had gotten from God before

Respond to Lane’s comment, “we live in the middle of what has happened and what is yet to come”.

After reading Luke 2:8-20 make note of the words or phrases that convey the emotions of the shepherds and Mary.

Into Life:

Webster’s definition of “Joy” includes, “rejoice,” great pleasure”, “delight” and others. How can we make joy a central part of our celebrations now and throughout the coming new year?

From Lane’s sermon, what are some of the things that “can cause us to lose or at least have our joy challenged”?

How can we use this acrostic as a starting point for our efforts to bring JOY to others?

Jesus
Others
Yourself

John 1:14

**The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.**

- The Message

This Week’s Songs:

Joy Has Dawned/Angels We Have Heard (Hymn 762/753)

It’s Christmas (Medley)

Joy (As Far As The Curse Is Found)

Joy Has Come (VCC Original)

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

