

Joy

Tuesday 10th December 2024



Image: Joy by Jill Wellington via FreeRangeStock

Scripture: Matthew 18:12-14

What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

To reflect

Joy –

“For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.”

(Baruch 5.9)

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”

(Philippians 1.3-4)

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent, BCP 1979, The Episcopal Church USA)

Joy in one of the readings for Daily Eucharist today – in rejoicing over lost sheep who are found. Joy in the readings from the Second Sunday of Advent – in God leading the people Israel with joy, in praying with joy for fellow members of the body of Christ and in the American Collect for Sunday – asking for joy as we prepare to meet the coming of Jesus, Christ, our Redeemer. Joy is also one of the themes for the different Advent Candles in our wreaths – for next Sunday, reflecting wonder and liberation.

What is giving you joy this Advent?

The Advent Wreath by The Revd Steve Sheridan

First flame alight to bring us hope.
Flickering on this advent wreath.
Lighting the dark in which we grope,
Leading us on to new belief.

Faith is the theme of candle two,
Urging us on to Bethlehem!
A child is born; the dawn breaks through,
While angels sing. Let's join with them

In ringing out the sound of joy.
This is the theme of advent three,
As shepherd's wonder at this boy;
One born to set the nations free.

We then light candle number four,
This flame our prayer for lasting peace,
That by the love which this child brings,
All war and conflict might yet cease.

There is one candle left to light,
As we begin our Christmas Day.
It is that one of dazzling white,
Hope, faith, joy, peace be yours I pray.

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rj2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- ‘Joy to the World’ words by Isaac Watts, tune G.F. Handel arr. Lowell Mason, one version is by Aretha Franklin. The words speak of the earth receiving her King, and hearts being prepared to receive him.
- ‘Love Divine’ words by Charles Wesley, there are several tunes used for this, the version by Howard Goodall (performed by the Choir of Christchurch Cathedral Oxford and London Musici) includes several settings. The words link to both the Baruch and Philippians readings.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.