

ADVENT 2024 – GOD FOR US - JOY!
DEC 15, 2024 — Pastor Harlyn — 180 Church
Luke 2:1-15; 1 Peter 1:6; Romans 15:13

Luke 2:1-7 “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

Luke 2:8-15 “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. ¹³ Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Luke 2:10 (Angel) “I bring you good news that will cause you great joy for all the people.”

Psalms 16:11 “In the presence of the Lord is fullness of joy and at His right-hand pleasures forever more.”

Joy – A “Fruit of the Spirit.”

“Fellowship with the Father and the Son is most vivid and sweet, and Christian joy is greatest, when the cross is heaviest.” — J. I. Packer

Jesus’ joy is not dependent on our circumstances.

1 Peter 1:6 “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”