

**December Teaching Theme: Advent**

讲员 Speaker: George Wong

题目 Topic: Advent: Christian Joy

经文 Scripture: Luke 2:8-18; 15:10; Matthew 2:10-11

**Monthly Theme:** We are in the midst of Advent season on the Global Church Calendar. Advent means “the coming” and is a time when we both celebrate Jesus’ first coming and wait expectantly for Jesus’ return to make all things right. The Christian observation of Advent reorients us to a season of denial and self-examination rather than that of rampant accumulation, consumption, and self-indulgence so often experienced during the holidays. The Christian must choose formation in the ways of Jesus as opposed to the ways of the world. To explore what Advent seasons message to us we are going to examine Hope, Faith, Joy, Jesus’ Birth Narrative, and the Peace of God. This week we are taking a look at Christian Joy.

**Resources:**

[Bible Project: Chara/Joy](#) [English] (Chinese Subtitles Available under Settings)

[Sermon Video](#)

Sermon PPT Attached

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Read Luke 2:8-18; 15:10; Matthew 2:10-11 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passages?
2. 请分享2020年的经历对你的生命有什么激励与成长? What are the impacts of the devastating year of 2020 to your life that make you to grow in spirituality?
3. 以色列人在亡国的黑暗中盼望一个弥撒亚, 在如今的黑暗中人们又盼望些什么? In the darkness of subjugation, Israel is hoping for the coming of the Messiah. Now, what are the people’s hope for in the darkness of pandemic and national crisis?
4. 什么是圣诞节大喜的信息? 什么是圣诞节的意义? 你当与人分享这大喜的信息与圣诞的意义? What is the good news of great joy? What is the true meaning of Christmas? How are you going to share the joy of Christmas and the true meaning of Christmas with your friends and relatives?
5. 博士们献上什么礼物给耶稣? 这些礼物有什么意义? 对你的生命有什么启发? What are the gifts that the wise men offer to Jesus Christ? What is the specific meaning of each gift? Reflect on the meanings of the gifts.
6. Spend time praying together concerning these things.

**Important Notes (Pastor Will):**

Reflection on Q3: Joy is an attitude that God’s people adopt, not because of happy circumstances, but because of their hope in God’s love and promise. Christian Joy is then determined by our future destiny. When reflecting upon our hope and source of joy during a season of many hardships, we should spend time reflecting upon the New Heaven and New Earth. Our future hope is in King Jesus’ return to make all things right - where there will be no

more death, mourning, crying, nor pain anymore. Maintaining a vision of the future can help us live with joy in the present.

As we have seen with all of our themes through Advent - Joy is an act of “anticipation” of future redemption that we have a taste of in King Jesus now through the salvation he grants us in our walking with him. When we live and act in faith in the present, we get tastes of this future reality, allowing us to walk with a foundational disposition of joy in the present.

General Thoughts about Christian Joy: Remember, that Christian joy doesn't mean we ignore or repress other emotions. Unfortunately, in many Christian contexts, we have not spent enough time teaching emotional health within the Christian worldview and the foundation of joy. It's impossible to be spiritually mature if you are not emotionally mature.

Read 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 together. What emotions is Paul feeling because of his circumstances? Why do you think he can be “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing”? How do you think this looks in our present context? What practices can we take on to help us be emotionally healthy while living in Christian Joy?

Examples of Practices we can take up to foster Emotional Health:

- Taking the Time to Name and Acknowledge the Emotions we are feeling, being honest with ourselves.
- Taking these emotions to God in “prayer with thanksgiving” (Recall, God gives us a new perspective - with his universal perspective)
- Spending time to remember the ways God has shown His faithfulness in the past.
- Reading Scripture
- Sharing life in the community. (Vulnerability and Honesty with Trusted People)
- Practicing James' wisdom “Be Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak, Slow to Anger.” Suspend your judgment about someone or something, so that you can see things how they actually are not how you think they are.
- Resist immediate gratification (Practicing Self-control)
- Recognizing the world isn't “Black and White,” but complex (Think back to Wisdom Literature Lessons).

### **Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):**

圣诞的喜悦

黄兴丰牧师, 12/13/20

一, 序言

病毒猖狂, 死亡, 病人, 经济影响

总统选举问题

人们焦虑

如何喜乐?

上帝掌管一切

让信心, 爱心, 盼望代替苦难失望和恨恶。

二, 圣诞的喜悦

1, 施洗约翰的诞生带来喜乐。

施洗约翰在母腹中欢喜跳动。

2, 天使宣告大喜的信息。路2 : 8-11

关乎万民, 救主降生。降在马槽里, 卑微, 谦卑自己, 如同羊被斩杀, 彼拉多查不到任何问题, 耶稣受到不公正的审判。耶稣基督的降生为我们每一位。牧羊人把圣诞节的大喜信息传开了。当人信主后, 名字就在天上了。

圣诞节快乐而不是节日快乐。真意不可忘。

3, 博士们看见那星便大大的欢喜, 耶稣二岁的时候, 送给耶稣。博士们知道王的诞生, 黄金 (给君王), 乳香 (给祭司), 没药 (给死者)

你给上帝的礼物是什么? 在圣诞节之前, 你可把传福音, 圣诞的盼望, 帮助受苦的人。

三, 结语

2020难忘, 很多第一次, 病毒和选举,

神没睡觉, 永远掌控, 引导人们进了祂自己

我们要传福音。

以色列等待弥撒亚, 拯救他们, 把我们从罪中得救, 除了耶稣没有得救。

在圣诞节的时候仰望神。

The Joy of Christmas

Luke 2:8-11

Pastor Huang

Advent of Joy:

John 16:16-33

Philippians 4:4-13

2020 is an unprecedented year:

The COVID pandemic has affected 71 million in the world, 1.6 million death

Declining of economy

Election chaos

How to rejoice in situation such as this? By knowing God is still in control

Christmas is the day of joy

Luke 1:13-14 the Joy of the birth of John the Baptist

Zachariah and Elizabeth had no child in old age. Angel Gabriel appeared to him when

Zachariah was working in the temple

1:41-44 when John heard the voice of Mary, even in his mom's womb, as a 6m fetus, he leaped with joy

Mary stayed for three months with Elizabeth, so baby Jesus and baby John had been together for 3m before their births

Luke 2:8-11 the angel declared the Good News of great joy: a savior is born to you, to the shepherds

Joy:

Relating to all people

The birth of Messiah, 586 years after the loss of their nation

The sign, baby in a manger in a barn: A manger was for food storage for horses. Yet King Jesus was born there, "the Son of Man has no place to lay his head", even the tomb that buried his dead body was borrowed

So humble

Died on the cross, as a lamb  
A prisoner was released instead  
Pontius Pilate, for 3 times, found no fault in him  
He died for the sins of you and me  
Luke 2:13-18 the shepherds publicized widely the good news of great joy  
When you hear the good news, do you share?  
“There’s rejoicing of angels over one sinner who repents” Luke 15:10  
Luke 10:20 when we repent, our name will be written on the book of life. So rejoice!  
The main subject of Christmas is Jesus, He is the reason of the holiday  
Merry Christmas is much more meaningful than Happy Holidays  
Spread the good news!  
How Malaysian Christians celebration Christmas?  
W/ so many activities,  
Huge parade of 3km long  
Don’t miss the opportunity to share Jesus’s  
The wisemen  
Mat 2:10,11 two years after Jesus’s birth came to worship him w/ gifts  
They came to the house and saw the young boy  
They followed the star, many history books recorded about the star  
Gold, gift for the king,  
Frankincense, incense used by priest  
Myrrh is for the dead body, not normally to a baby, symbolizes the sacrifice of Christ as a  
Messiah  
What do you give to our Lord as gift in this Christmas?  
Like shepherds to spread the gospel  
Tell one person the truth meaning of Christmas  
Share the joy during the pandemic  
Lead a person to Christ  
In this unprecedented year:  
Pandemic  
Economic slowdown  
Hatred expressed in the election  
Many live in fear  
Christians know God is in control, He is not sleeping, He will intervene, will reveal all the truth  
and guide His people to Him, so take this opportunity, share the joy and hope.  
Messiah not just for the Israelites, but all mankind, repent from sins, He is the only savior  
None we can rely on besides Him

So focus on Jesus in this season