

**Clifton Presbyterian
Church**
Lessons and Laughter
10 AM, December 29, 2024
Fellowship Hall



Breath Prayer:

INHALE: Fill me, O Lord,
EXHALE: Let joy overflow.

In this quilt square design, tulip-like flowers stretch and bloom, referencing the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, "The earth laughs in flowers.."

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WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Gathering Song Joy to the World, v. 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Welcome

Opening Conversation at Table

Reflect upon the question, "What brings you joy?"

One: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

All: God is in our joy.

One: God is in this room.

All: We have reason to celebrate.

One: We have a reason to sing.

All: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Lesson of Joy 1: Luke 2:10-11

"Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Lesson of Joy 2: Isaiah 9:2-3

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

Practice of Joy

Sung Response of Joy Joy to the World, v. 2

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Lesson of Joy 3: Matthew 2:9b-10

...(The magi) set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,^[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped,^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy.

Lesson of Joy 4: Isaiah 55:12-13

12 For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Practice of Joy

Sung Response of Joy Joy to the World, v. 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Sung Prayer

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT FOR SERVICE

Charge and Blessing

Sung Response of Joy

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Thanks to those leading us in worship -

Sharon Corish, worship leader; Beth and Ed Corish, hosts