

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

Philippians 4:4-14

4 Ways to Strive for Joy in Christ

1) Practice the discipline of thanksgiving (1 Thess 5:16-18).

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

2) Learn Contentment (1 Timothy 6:6, Proverbs 28:25).

A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the Lord will be enriched. **Proverbs 28:25**

3) Be watchful over what your mind dwells on (Colossians 3:2).

Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart. **Jer 15:16**

4) Remain in Christian community (Proverbs 12:25, Hebrews 3:13).



Worship Service Guide | | 12.16.2018

Welcome and Introduction: John Talley - Worship Pastor

Sing: What the Shepherds Know

Advent Reading: Monte and Sharon Owen

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. **Zephaniah 3:14-15, 17**

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" **Psalms 70:4**

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 John 4:10**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! **1 John 3:1**

Sing: *O Holy Night*

Corporate Prayer: Joshua Dean – Gospel Community Leader
Our prayer focus for this week is to ask God to fill our hearts with joy, and to remind us that He is always working in our circumstances to fulfill His purpose for us.

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah* God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness! **Psalm 57:1-3**

Sing: *Mary Did You Know*

Important Dates to Remember

Next Sunday December 23rd at 10am - Christmas Breakfast.

Please bring a dish to share with everyone and arrive a few minutes early to setup.

December 24th at 9pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

We will close out the Advent season with scripture reading, singing, and prayers. We hope you can make it and bring a friend!!

December 30th our former Pastor Chase Thompson and his family will be visiting with us. We will have a **picnic lunch after church** (*bring something for your family*) as well as a **Corn-Hole Tournament for ages 13 and up**. The church will provide drinks and deserts.

Coming in January: Wednesday Night services resume on January 9th, **New members class** will be January 20th after church (See David for more info or if you would like to sign up) and our **Church Ministry Fair** will be January 27th during morning worship. More to come....



Sermon: Philippians 4:4-14 | | David McConnell – Lead Pastor

4 Big Ideas Regarding Christian Joy

- God's highest purpose in the universe is **His glory**, and our joy in him is **directly connected** to this purpose.

There was once in man a true happiness of which there now remains in him only [an] empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present. But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God himself. – Blaise Pascal (17th Century Theologian)

- God is **committed** to our everlasting joy in Him.
 - God grants gifts and contexts that propel us to joy (**1Tim 6:17**). But God purposes for our joy to be in Him so that even in difficult times our joy remains constant.
- Joy is both a **gift from** God and a **command of** God.
 - God is working joy in us as an essential of our faith (**Ps 16:11, Gal 5:22**). At the same time, we are commanded to strive for joy in the Lord always (**Phil 2:18, 3:1, 4:4**).
- **Grumbling** wars against our joy in God and in doing so **robs** God of His glory in us (**Phil 2:14,17 and 1 Cor 10:10-12**).