

12-17-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“... joy is a core component of the Christian life, a quality of life we should recognize, practice, and cultivate continuously, not just in particular seasons or circumstances.”

- Beth Ludlum



John 1:6-8, 19-28

Questions for Reflection —

- How do you define joy? What has given you joy in this Advent season? What would it mean to make joy a practice in your life? How can you make joy a priority in your life? What will help you cultivate joy not only in this season but throughout the year? How can you share joy with others? How can we as a congregation serve as a source of joy for others all year long?

- What distinguishes joy from happiness? Do you think it is possible to experience joy even if you are unhappy? Why or why not? When/how have you been surprised by joy in otherwise challenging circumstances? How does your faith enhance your ability to experience joy? What does it look like to rejoice always no matter the circumstances?

- Where in the world or in your life do you see situations in need of God's transforming joy? Where is the darkness in our world this holiday season? What does joy to the world mean in that darkness? How can you point to and reflect the light of Christ in the dark places of your life and in the world? How can we as a congregation prepare the way for the light of Christ to illumine our world more brightly?

Daily Household Prayer

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son. Grant us the wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his kingdom of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.