

“Resting in Joy, Joy, Joy!”

Intro: The pink candle in the Advent wreath marks a turning point in the season, from a focus on *repentance* to a focus on celebration and *joy* for God’s gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

I. Joy before Jesus was born

- a. Joy in creation (Psalm 98:4-9)
- b. Joy in God’s people (Nehemiah 8:9-10)
- c. Jumping for joy (in the womb!) (Luke 1:39-45)

II. Joy at Jesus’ birth

- a. One angel’s joy (Luke 2:8-12)
- b. Joy among the heavenly host (Luke 2:13-14)
- c. The shepherds’ joy (Luke 2:15-20)

III. Joy for you today (and forever)

- a. How can you have this joy? (John 15:11; Gal. 5:22)
- b. Can you lose this joy? (Matthew 13:20-21)
- c. Can you regain this joy? (Psalm 51:12)

Close: In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables about being lost and found. They are actually stories about being lost in sin, and then being “found” again through repentance. Jesus says, “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).