



PICTURES OF THE INCARNATION - God With Us

The eternal, infinite God became a human being in Jesus Christ—a physical, limited, vulnerable, mortal being in history. The implications of this reality are vast and many. During this Christmas Season we will look at various pictures of this incredible reality of the Incarnation

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Pictures of the Incarnation: JOY TO THE WORLD!
 John 1:12-16; Luke 1:39-45; 2:8-14.

December 16, 2021

Bible Verses: John 1:12-16; Luke 1:39-45; Luke 2:18-14; II Corinthians 5:14-21; Psalm 16:11; John 15:11-15; John 16:19-24; John 17:13; Hebrews 12:1,2; Philippians 1:22-26; I Peter 3:13-18; I Thessalonians 3:6-10; I John 1:1-4

Resources: *Sermon #626: The Joy of Jesus* by Timothy Keller
Video: A Christmas Carol Scrooge's Transformation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxCdw309sLo>
Music: Chris Tomlin Feat. Watoto Children's Choir - Joy to the World
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL3zFwV20U>

GOD WITH US – Jesus’ Presence Brings Joy.

- _____ → The Incarnation is the greatest joy-story of all time. In the presence of Jesus the *fullness* of joy overflows (Psalm 16:11). Jesus prayed we would experience His joy in full measure (John 15:11-15; 16:19-24; 17:13). The joy Jesus gives us doesn’t eliminate all sorrow, but it transforms our sadness from self-pity and comparison-ism, to other-centered empathy and compassion.
- _____ → Our tears become the corrective-lenses through which we see the wonders of Jesus’ love with 20-20 vision. We actually begin to believe *we* were the joy “set before him,” as he humbly and gladly went to the cross for us (Heb. 12:2). This knowledge changes *everything*. Jesus fills our hearts with joy, peace, and hope. We don’t need a different story or family of origin, less suffering or more money, a change of vocation, location, or a long vacation. We need *JESUS! HE* restores, refreshes, enlivens, and deepens our intimacy with him. And that brings us JOY (Philippians 1:22-26)!
- _____ → The Joy of knowing God is with us and that nothing can separate us from His love. The Joy of knowing that God’s love for us is as much as His love of Jesus. The Joy of experiencing God’s presence in all our circumstances—storms of all sorts, His grace in our weakness, and His mercy in our failures.

GOD WITH US – JOY MATTERS!

- _____ → The World is asking: “What matters? The World questions everything. A joyful heart shines the truth of what we believe to the world. It matters. Christians are not immune to hardship, trial, and suffering. However, we experience them differently than others do (I Peter 3:13-18). We should expect the world the ask: “Why are you so joyful?”
- _____ → The Church rejoices in hope when joy is experienced in difficulty (1 Thess. 3:6-10). The Thessalonians’ contentment in hardship and struggle encouraged Paul in the midst of his own suffering. As we stand firm in hope, rejoicing in the Lord, the community is encouraged. Our joy in the Lord stirs up fresh courage in others.
- _____ → On the night before he died, Jesus shared a final meal and conversation with his disciples. Jesus comforted his disciples and encouraged them to not be troubled. He assured them that although he was going away, he would come back for them. He explained that the Spirit would come and dwell within them and be with them always (John 15:11). Jesus was concerned about their joy. Today, Jesus is concerned about your joy!

ACTION: Journal This!

- What is your most enjoyable memory of a past Christmas?
- Where have you found the most JOY over the past year?
- How is JOY part of your experience of following Jesus?

“Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)” – By Chris Tomlin

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 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns That 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 Joy, unspeakable joy An overflowing well No tongue can tell Joy, unspeakable joy Rises in my soul, never let's me go 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 Joy, unspeakable joy And overflowing well No tongue can tell Joy, unspeakable joy Rises in my soul, never let's me go
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Bible Verses – The Message

<p>John 1:12-16 - 12 But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. 13 These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten. 14 The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. 15 John pointed him out and called, "This is the One! The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me. He has always been</p>	<p>born, there is joy in the birth. This new life in the world wipes out memory of the pain. 22 The sadness you have right now is similar to that pain, but the coming joy is also similar. When I see you again, you'll be full of joy, and it will be a joy no one can rob from you. 23 You'll no longer be so full of questions. 24 Ask in my name, according to my will, and he'll most certainly give it to you. Your joy will be a river overflowing its banks!</p>
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ahead of me, has always had the first word." **16** We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift.

Luke 1:39-45 - 39 Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, **40** straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, **42** and sang out exuberantly, You're so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed! **43** And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me? **44** The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, The babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy. **45** Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!

Luke 2:18-14 - 18 All who heard the shepherders were impressed. **19** Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. **20** The shepherders returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told! **21** When the eighth day arrived, the day of circumcision, the child was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived. **22** Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God **23** as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," **24** and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law.

II Corinthians 5:14-21 - 14 Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do. **15** He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. **16** Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. **17** Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! **18** All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. **19** God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. **20** We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you. **21** How? you say. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.

Psalms 16:11 - 11 Now you've got my feet on the life path, all radiant from the shining of your face. Ever since you took my hand, I'm on the right way.

John 15:11-15 - 11 "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. **12** This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. **13** This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. **14** You are my friends when you do the things I command you. **15** I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.

John 16:19-24 - 19 Jesus knew they were dying to ask him what he meant, so he said, "Are you trying to figure out among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'In a day or so you're not going to see me, but then in another day or so you will see me'?" **20** Then fix this firmly in your minds: You're going to be in deep mourning while the godless world throws a party. You'll be sad, very sad, but your sadness will develop into gladness. **21** "When a woman gives birth, she has a hard time, there's no getting around it. But when the baby is

John 17:13 - 13 Now I'm returning to you. I'm saying these things in the world's hearing so my people can experience My joy completed in them.

Hebrews 12:1,2 - 1 Do you see what this means - all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running - and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. **2** Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish in and with God - he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

Philippians 1:22-26 - 22 As long as I'm alive in this body, there is good work for me to do. If I had to choose right now, I hardly know which I'd choose. **23** Hard choice! The desire to break camp here and be with Christ is powerful. Some days I can think of nothing better **24**. But most days, because of what you are going through, I am sure that it's better for me to stick it out here. **25** So I plan to be around awhile, companion to you as your growth and joy in this life of trusting God continues. **26** You can start looking forward to a great reunion when I come visit you again. We'll be praising Christ, enjoying each other.

I Peter 3:13-18 - 13 If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? **14** Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. **15** Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. **16** Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that they're the ones who need a bath. **17** It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. **18** That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all - was put to death and then made alive - to bring us to God.

I Thessalonians 3:6-10 - 6 But now that Timothy is back, bringing this terrific report on your faith and love, we feel a lot better. It's especially gratifying to know that you continue to think well of us, and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you! **7** In the middle of our trouble and hard times here, just knowing how you're doing keeps us going. **8** Knowing that your faith is alive keeps us alive. **9** What would be an adequate thanksgiving to offer God for all the joy we experience before him because of you? **10** We do what we can, praying away, night and day, asking for the bonus of seeing your faces again and doing what we can to help when your faith falters.

I John 1:1-4 - 1 From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in - we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands. **2** The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen! And now we're telling you in most sober prose that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: The infinite Life of God himself took shape before us. **3** We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** Our motive for writing is simply this: We want you to enjoy this, too. Your joy will double our joy!

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