

Advent: The Season to be Merry

Marlow Dec 2015



What did the angels announce?

- ◆ Luke 2:8-16
- ◆ Good news!
- ◆ Joy for ALL people
- ◆ Peace on earth
- ◆ A Saviour has been born
- ◆ He's in a manger



Two Ways to World Peace?

Pax Romana

- ◆ Augustus – son of a god
- ◆ Political intrigue
- ◆ Enforced
- ◆ Roman army
- ◆ No fighting

Advent of Heaven

- ◆ Jesus – the Son of God
- ◆ Innocence
- ◆ Freely chosen
- ◆ Disciples who love
- ◆ Shalom – wholeness

Joy is a Choice



Joy does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose joy and
keep choosing it every day.
– Henri Nouwen

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Some Joy Bringers

- 💧 Believing – 1 Peter 1:8
- 💧 Loving – John 15:9-12
- 💧 Praying – John 16:24

Joy for all - Believing



The Bottom line is... we are loved!

- ◆ Nothing's changed but...
- ◆ We have a Saviour
- ◆ Goodwill toward us
- ◆ Intoxicating joy!
- ◆ We have peace
- ◆ Love wins – Isaiah 9:7

Joy For All – Loving

- Love is patient
- Love is practical
- Love everyone
- God is glorified
- John 15:15-17



Joy For All - Praying



- ◆ John 15:7-8, 16, 16:24
- ◆ Jesus' birth was a response to prayer
- ◆ Part of God's goodwill toward us – favour!
- ◆ Nepal blockade!
- ◆ God wants us all to know the joy of answered prayer!

J.O.Y.

Jesus

Believing

Others

Loving

Yourself

Praying