

Kailua Christian Church  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Sunday December 12, 2021  
**Jesus' Gifts of Christmas**

**Joy**  
**Strength to Keep Going**  
**Joy; when God's goodness touches our heart, mind  
and soul.**

*"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,[a] the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"[c]*  
*15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:8-20*

**I find the strength of Jesus' Joy When...**

**I. I welcome surprises for its good**

*"Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:" Luke 2:9*

- **Do I tend to be a joy receiver or joy refuser? Would you like to become more receptive?**

**II. When I share what good I know of Christ with others**

*"So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them." Luke 2:16-18*

- **What is good about Jesus that I find most life and joy giving?**

**III. I ponder and proceed with gratitude.**

*"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:19-20*

- **How do I make time and space to reflect with gratefulness on how Jesus is working in my life?**