

*“Then he said to them, ‘Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the **Joy of the Lord** is your strength.’ So, the Levites calmed all the people, saying, ‘Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.’” (Nehemiah 8.10-11)*

Dear Grace of Christ Family,

The pandemic may have messed up your Thanksgiving plans. It may attempt to disrupt your Christmas plans. However, nothing and nobody can take away the joy of Christmas, which is found in Christ, and Christ alone. As Nehemiah proclaimed, “this day is holy”. He may not be talking about Christmas, but as we know, every day is a holy day, holy devoted to God. Worship is not on any given day or in any given place, but is a matter of our heart, soul, mind and body giving glory and honor to God in all things. “The joy of the Lord is your strength” each and every day. We have strength enough for each day as we look to the Lord and shout out to the heavens: “This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it.”

As you join us for worship this Sunday, whether in person or online, let us join our hearts and spirits together, as we:

***Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name! (Psalm 100.4)***

This Sunday is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. We light the Joy candle. That means that it is the last Sunday before Christmas. The four Advent candles will have been lit. We then will gather on Christmas Eve to light the Christ candle. We are going to have two Candle light services: Homestyle Christmas (with Nativity Scene) will be at 4:30pm; Modified Carols and Candles will be at 7:30pm. Be sure to RSVP on line, or through the church app, or call the church office. There will also be a livestream through our website, the church app, YouTube (subscribe to Yakima Grace) and Facebook.

Join us in celebrating the birth of Christ, hearing the words of the angel: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great **JOY** that will be for all the people.”

Because of Christ, and in His Grace,

Pastor Bill