

The Benefits of Joy

June 19, 2022

Introduction & Thanks

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ Online Ministry. Services are presented on YouTube, Facebook and our website one week following recording. This week's message is titled The Benefits of Joy. Thank you to Julie, Dianne and Don for being part of the video. The scripture reading is Psalm 100 verses one to five.

Welcome, Announcements & Prayer

Good morning. Morning. Well, what a wonderful week it has been. And I was thinking all week about the things that Don spoke about last Sunday, about grief and about its importance in our lives and how it's the price of love And I just kind of kept coming back to that and thinking about how wonderful that our joy and our grief can be all mixed together. That grief isn't an overpowering, sad thing, but just a process of processing love in different ways. And so that's the sort of thing that's been on my mind. But I know that this week, Don is going to kind of take us I don't want to say an opposite direction, but a different direction because we're talking about joy today. But as I said, Joy is all tied up in grief as well. So, you know, it's life. It's life. It's Christians coming together supporting Christians and all of us walking this path together.

So we're saying happy birthday to William. And happy anniversary to Tina and Earl. This is a busy week at Great Lakes exams and graduation. And I don't see very many students with us today. Katrin sure, there's a few at the back as well. Yeah, we had a whole lot more last week, and they were so encouraging. It was so wonderful having them. And we always miss you when you go. But we're looking forward to celebrating with you this week. So if anybody is interested in that, that is happening on Friday. OK. That takes care of the announcements for today. Let's just bow our heads in prayer for a moment.

Dear Lord, we thank you for the beautiful week that we had, the sunshine and the rain and all the beautiful things that are growing in our gardens and on the farms in our neighborhoods. We thank you for all the blessings in life. We thank you for all the people that you bring into our lives. That encourage us and that help us to grow. We thank you for your word and how it guides our lives and helps us to be more pleasing to you. We ask you to be with us today as we bring worship to you and praise and as we reach out to each other and encourage each other. All these things we pray through Christ's name, amen.

Communion

As we prepare to share communion together. This morning, I'd like to read some some selections from the Book of Matthew to focus our minds on on the cross and on what Jesus has done for us.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover? He replied, Go into the city to a certain man and tell him. The teacher says, My appointed time is near. I'm going to celebrate the Passover

with my disciples at your house. So the disciples did, as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, I tell you the truth. One of you will betray me. They were very sad, and began to say to him, one after the other, Surely not, my Lord, Jesus replied One who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.

The Son of man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the son of man. It would be better for him if he had not been born. Then Judas, the one who would betray him said, Surely not I, Rabbi. And Jesus answered, It's you. While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat. This is my body. Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and offered to them, offered it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my father's kingdom. And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon and they forced him to carry the cross They came to a place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull There they offered Jesus wine to drink mixed with gold. But after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there Above his head, they placed the written charge against him. This is Jesus, the king of the Jews. Two robbers were crucified with him. One on his right. One left. Those who pass by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days. Save yourself. Come down from the cross. If you're the Son of God. In the same way, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him, saved others. He said he can't save himself. He's the king of Israel. Let him come down off the cross. We will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him. For he said, I'm the Son of God. In the same way, the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, darkness came over all the land. At the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice. Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani. Which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? When some of those standing there heard this, they said he's calling Elijah. Immediately. One of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar. Put it on a stick and offered it to him. Drink to drink. The rest said, Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him. And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open. And the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs. And after Jesus resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many people When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened. They were terrified and explained. Exclaimed. Surely he was the son of God.

Let's take a moment to think on these things and share in this communion.

But that's not where the story ends.

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his

clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, Do not be afraid. I know that you were looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples. He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. And now I've told you. So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid, but filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And suddenly Jesus met them. Greetings, he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. And then Jesus said to them. Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. And there they will see me.

Reading – Psalm 100

I'm going to shout for joy. And not a long verse, but it's a great verse. OK, Psalm 100 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us. And we are His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise give him thanks to give thanks to him and praise his name for the Lord is good and his love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations. Bless the Word of the Lord.

Message

Good morning, everyone. Glad to have you with us today. Gentlemen. Preacher. Ironically, his name is Billy Sun, and I thought that would be a cool statement. For a preacher. But Billy Sunday said these words, If you have no joy in your face, there is a leak in your Christianity. And I think he's right. There is a there are marvelous books in all of scripture that celebrate and really encourage us to celebrate with joy. It's last week we talked about grief, and yet there are a lot of lessons that we can learn in grief. But it's also true with joy. One of the great books in the Bible that deals with joy is the book of Nehemiah. It's a story of Nehemiah. With God's help and other people's help building the walls around Jerusalem and then eventually Israel being able to worship in safety and enjoy And I just want to read a couple of scriptures and then look at a few other things. Just give you a couple of excerpts from the book of Nehemiah. Ezra opened the book and all the people could see him because he was standing above them. First mention of the pulpit in the Bible, by the way, and Ezra praised Lord, the great God, and all the people lifted their hands and responded, Amen. And they did it again.

Amen. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. That's just not something that we Canadians do But it was a magnificent response to what God had done for them. And then it says, all the people went away celebrating and drank and sent portions of food to celebrate with great joy because they now understand the words that were made known to them, and then it could continue on. And they say this Blessed be your glorious name. Oh, Lord. And may it be exalted above blessing and praise. You alone made the heavens and the highest heavens and the starry host, the earth and all that is in them and the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

And then at the dedication of the walls of Jerusalem, at the dedication of the wall, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully and dedication with songs of Thanksgiving, with the music of cymbals and harps and lyres. And the singers were also brought together from the region around Jerusalem. And then it says on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing, because God had given them great joy. The women and children all rejoiced. The

sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away. That's just part of this great story of the book of Nehemiah, where Joy came home Last Sunday, we talked about the benefits of grief. And that grief tells us that we love immensely. How many of us have experienced broken hearts in our lifetime? We know what that's like Queen Elizabeth, a wonderful woman with wisdom, said, and she's been through it. Grief is the price we pay for love. However, our life is not dominated by grief. Life is overwhelmingly beautiful. All you have to do is close your eyes and think about the beautiful things that have happened to you in your life. Your own relationship with God, your relationship with people, and even people whom you love who have passed. You know that you'll see them again. You can still see them in your mind. You can still hear their voice. They're not gone. They're just in a different place. But we're going to be together again someday. The benefits of joy. It brings great joy. And the joy of the Lord is off the charts. Beautiful Love brings great joy. So today, let's just listen to some scripture all about the joy of the Lord. That comes our way. Allow yourself the joy of the Lord to rest upon you. Give yourself permission to know the joy of the Lord has come upon you. So buckle up.

And here we go. We're going to stay in the book of Psalms. And you're going to you might be overwhelmed by. Oh, by this. You keep saying this. I don't keep saying it. The psalmist keeps saying. And I don't know about you, but I need to be reminded often of things of Scripture. And in Psalms, we're just going to stay in the book of Psalms if you want to at some time, grab a concordance, look at the word joy, go ahead and begin, and I'll give you a day or two to finish. Joy is everywhere. But do we captured? Do we receive the joy of the Lord? Psalm four over seven. You have filled my heart with greater joy than when the grain and the new wine abound. Well, that's joy. Chapter five and verse 11. But let all who take refuge in you be glad Let them ever sing with joy. Have you ever noticed our little boys and our little girls in the church and maybe at home and elsewhere that when they're happy, they sing? It's part of God living in them. So the next time you listen and watch a child sing remember that's God. That's God bringing them joy. Joy was created by God to live in us. Yes. Grief, absolutely. But Joy as well. Chapter six and verse 11, you have made known to me the path of life. You fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

This is a reference to strength. In other words, God knows when we express joy. It's part of him and it flows back to us. Chapter 19. The precepts, the laws, the words of the Lord are right. Giving joy to the heart The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. Chapter 20 in verse five. We will shout for joy. And when you are victorious and lift up your banners in the name of our God, may the Lord grant all your requests. 21 and one. Oh, Lord, the king rejoices in your strength. How great is His joy in the victories you give? 21 in six. Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence. 27 and six. Then my head will be exalted. Above the enemies who surround me at his tabernacle. Will I sacrifice with shouts of joy? I will sing and make music to the Lord. 28 and seven. The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart trusts in Him. And I am helped. My heart leaps for joy. And I will give thanks to him in song and then a scripture that you've probably heard before. And it's wonderful. Chapter three. Part B of chapter and verse 11. You have turned my wailing. You have turned my weeping into dancing. You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy Probably all of us have experienced this in the past. Someone whom you love passes. There are no words to describe it. The grief is overwhelming. And then days go by and weeks go by. And then every once in a while a smile comes to our face because we remember. Oh yeah, I remember that time when we went out and we did this and did that and wow, it was so great. Oh, I remember this. And now the sadness. Is still there.

There's some sadness still there. Missing them but the joy that that person gave us and the joy that we know we gave them. And it's a reminder that God knows when we weep, but his joy is for us. And we learn a lot through weeping. But we also learn through joy. And so to go through life happy and joyous. Don't feel badly about that. We need joy in our life. And God reminds us of the joy he has for each one of us. So sing to him a new song, play skillfully and shout for joy. May those who delight in my vindication. Shout for joy and gladness. May they always say the Lord be exalted who delights in the well-being of his people. And then try to picture this scene 42. And for these things, I remember as I pour out my soul how I used to go with the multitude leading the procession to the house of God with shouts of joy and Thanksgiving among the festive song. So we come to church. We're here today and we celebrate but in the Old Testament, there was a procedure where the priests would gather together. They would blow their horns, their trumpets call young people to come, and there would be a long procession praising God going into the temple, praising God. And then inside the temple, the leader would respond by saying, Here are the words that we're going to sing today. And they would shout with joy and sing with joy. Sometimes somebody might go, Well, that's just kind of over the top.

Well, tell God about that. He created it. Come together, sing and celebrate read with great, great joy. And then picture these words. The things I remember as I pour out my soul, how I used to go with that multitude shouting for joy. Remember all those wonderful times that you have had in life. Yes, grief. And we learn from grief we learn how to help people in grief. We know how to pour out our love to them with grief, but also with joy. We celebrate with one another. We're happy with one another. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God who is my joy and my delight. And I will praise you with the harp. Oh, God, my God. And then at 45, you love righteousness and you hate wickedness. Therefore, God, your God has set you above your companions. By anointing you with the oil of joy. I picture and you've seen this many, many times when someone has been baptized. I have never seen a person being baptized and feel sad about it. It just doesn't happen. It just doesn't happen. And yet what what causes us to forget about that? It's important to bring joy to the Lord because he pours out his joy, his joy. You can imagine his joy into us so there's so many scripture that helps us with this. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain. They shout for joy and they sing. Nature itself does

66 and one shout with joy to God all the earth. One day that will happen can you imagine what that's going to be like? May the nations be glad all the nations be glad and sing for joy. For you. Rule the peoples justly and you guide the nations of the earth. 71:23. My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you as we've done today. And when you have felt redeemed, Sing for joy to God our strength Shout aloud The God of Jacob Bring joy to your servant Oh, Lord, I lift up my soul You created the North and the South Taber and Herman sing for joy at your name Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love That we may sing for joy And be glad All our days for you Make me glad by your deeds Oh, Lord, I will sing for joy At the works of your hands When anxiety was great within me Your constellation brought joy to my soul I'm sure we've all experienced that someone whom we have loved who passes it's overwhelming grief. But the joy that comes is that we will see one another again. And the joy that comes is remembering that love relationship that you've had with the other and the other with you. That's what is eternal. And so when anxiety was great, consolation brings joy to the soul. So come let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Some of you have gone through experiences most people in life have that have been overwhelmingly difficult. And you really wondered, Can I ever sing again? Can I will I ever experience joy again? And then it comes slowly

but surely you remember with grief and sadness. But then as the days go by and the weeks go by, you remember the good times. You remember those laughing times, you remember those babies giggling. You remember when this happened and when that happened and when this happened. And it's it's the joy of the Lord coming to us. We maybe thought all of our life that when we think about these things, that's just us doing it.

Well, maybe it is, but maybe it's also God saying, I haven't left you. I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. And my joy, God says, Please hear my joy is poured out into you. That helps, doesn't take away everything, but it helps the funeral and people standing up and talking about this loved one. There's usually some humor thrown in there because there was joy in knowing this loved one. And so it says, picture this, let the fields be jubilant and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing with joy. You picture that there's this connection all around, this nature itself. Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright heart. Psalm 98 Shout for joy to the Lord. All the earth burst into jubilant song with music 98 and six with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn Shout for joy before the Lord the king 100 verse one shout for joy to the Lord All the earth.

Psalm 105:43 He brought out his people with rejoicing. His chosen one was shouts of joy. Psalm 107 Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his words with songs of joy. 118 shouts for joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous. The Lord's right hand has done mighty things. Psalm 119 Your Statutes. My laws are my heritage forever. They are the joy of my heart. And then 126 our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues were songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, the Lord has done great things for them in the Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Is it OK if we just read a couple more? I think we got the point. Psalm 132. May your priests be clothed with righteousness. May your saints sing with joy. I will close her priests with salvation and her service will ever sing for joy. So I'm 137 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy and then 149 Let the Saint rejoice in his honor and sing for joy on their beds. Getting up in the morning. Today is the Lord's Day. Every day is the Lord's Day. What joy can I bring for you oh, Lord, for the joy that you have brought to me. So I want to conclude by reading Psalm 150. And if it's not to inconvenient, I would just like you to stand with me and I'll just go ahead and conclude by reading this passage and maybe if you have imagination, you can picture today us standing in so many people in heaven standing with us.

They hear these words and they understand praise it's in heaven all the time. Hear the words, praise the Lord, praise the Lord in His church, praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise Him for His surpassing greatness. Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet. Praise Him with the harp, with the lyre. Praise him with the tambourine and dancing. Praise him with the strings and flute. Praise him with the clash of the cymbals. Let everything that has breath. Praise the Lord. And so would you say with me. Praise the Lord Let's finish. One, two, three. Praise the Lord. Thank you so much. Please be seated.

Closing

I have no breath after all those energetic songs! Whoo! one thought that has been on my mind was that yesterday when I was cruising through Facebook as I am known to do, I came across a post that Peggy posted about Lynn Anderson's passing away. I don't know if everybody has heard that or not, but I know that he is near and dear to many of our hearts. He has been in our neighborhoods, he's been in our churches, he's been to Great Lakes, to the lecture ships, and he's a Canadian boy. Yeah. I

know that. My parents knew him and loved him. I didn't know him as well. But the joy that came to me yesterday as I watched that little clip was watching Max Lucado, of all people who I didn't necessarily know, had any relationship with Lynn Anderson giving credit to Lynn for teaching him about Grace and bringing him into the Lord and doing something that I once did, finding a good teacher. And that would have been Lynn Anderson finding a good teacher and sitting at his feet as often as possible. To learn as much as he could from him. And I rejoice the angels in heaven rejoice and look at the power of those seeds. That Lynn planted and how it's affected the church in the world. It's it's very exciting to think about. It's it's a joyful thought and and, you know, it's it's just it's beautiful.

Please join me in prayer as we close out this service. Dear Lord, we're thinking right now about the people who are not with us today. Those who are ill, those who have mobility issues those who maybe are a little bit more relaxed in their relationship with you. And we're just hoping and praying that they can feel our love and that you will reach out to them and comfort them in whatever state in life they are, and that we will be open to opportunity is to also reach out to them and comfort them in whatever state they are. We thank you for Jesus's ultimate sacrifice and the gift of salvation and the joy that that brings us. We thank you for all of the blessings that you bestow on us throughout our lives. And the joy that those things bring us. We thank you most of all for our hope. And it's with these words that I conclude and pray in your name. Amen. Amen.

End Credits

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