

**NEXT STEPS** Series “Brought to the Light” Message title: “The Light of Joy” **12/14/25**

Next Steps are designed to be used in your small group settings. Need a group? Let us help!

*The scripture lesson comes from Luke 1:39-56. It is not printed here due to length.*

*PLEASE take the time to read this passage prior to completing this Next Steps.*

This is the third Sunday of the Christian calendar. This season, which includes the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas, is called Advent. The word Advent means “the arrival” or “to come.”

We are looking for Christ to come! We have looked at how Jesus brings in the light of hope.

Where have you experienced renewed hope? Last week we look at how Jesus brings the light of peace. Where have you experience renewed peace? Remember, we aren’t taking this

journey through Advent just to get to the Christmas celebration. Dig deeper. Prepare well.

Without the preparation, the celebration will be lacking. Ask Him for more light!

The focus in today’s scripture lesson is joy. When you think of the word “joy”, what comes to mind? Does it feel accessible or far off in your current season? Be honest as you share your thoughts with your small group.

Read Luke 1:39-56. Elizabeth had already experienced some really good news. Mary had received some startling news and came to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and also with joy. Where did Elizabeth’s joy come from? How did the visit (more specifically the confirmation Elizabeth gave to Mary) impact Mary? Did you notice how Mary responded to the confirmation? She was already filled with joy. How did she receive even more joy?

Joy is communal. How have you experienced that in your faith journey? Do you find that the joy you express brings joy into the lives of others? Or, do you mostly find that others are bringing joy into your life? How does this play out in the church family? How does that truth (that joy is communal) impact our Sunday worship experiences? Where do you see joy when we gather? When you leave to “go be the Church”, do you go out intentionally trying to spread the joy? Remember, joy doesn’t bring gratitude. Gratitude leads us to being joyful.

Have you ever experienced joy in the midst of pain or hardship? What did that look like and how did it shape your faith? Which is more difficult for you: to rejoice and give thanks to God in the good or to hold onto joy in the hard times? Why?

Is there something you are longing to experience joy in again, something that’s grown dull, heavy, or painful? After sharing, pray for those in your group to experience joy in those areas.

This series will guide us to see the Light Jesus brings into the world. Want to share the Light?

Who deserves to join you on this journey? When will you ask?

Remember, we have gathered in worship; now it is time to go and be the church.

***“Living intentionally in a Christlike manner to bring glory to God”  
the Church***