

## Faith Life Weekly 11/10/09

### Reflection:

"Joy"

What comes to mind when you see this word?

As I shared in my message yesterday, "Joy" is not easy for those of us of the seasonal embellishment traditions. You see Advent, the season that we use as Christians to get ready for Christmas, really Christ's second coming, the last days, the end times, the final judgement, really has a somber tone to it. It is rather dark. The scripture calls us to keep our candles lit, to prepare, to be ready.

So any hint of Joy is like a light in the darkness, like a crack in the cement of the season.

For me at least it has always appeared to be a forced regimen to light the candles of faith at Advent, to bow down and pay homage, to say our proper prayers. I am not sure that was our Lord's intention. The weight of the season was not meant to draw us down. After all there is much Joy in what is coming our way at Christmas.

So I say "be joyful", my friend.

I knew a Joy in my growing up years. She was – well – my first boyhood friend who just happened to be a girl. Do you remember those days? Your face would go flush in the presence of this special friend. You acted kind of giddy, and anything you did was a bit awkward. Well, my wife and I were sorting through the mountains of collections in my mother's attic a few years back. We were pitching things that would no longer be used. She ran across a card that was addressed to me. It read like this, "My heart pumps peanut butter for you." Someone suggested after church that my wife write a new card that might say, "My heart pumps cocoa puffs for you." You have to understand, this is an inside joke.

But the point is, God values us. God cares deeply for us. God's heart pumps Joy at the very thought of us. God desires that we be joy filled in this season at the very thought of his birth among us, and not to add to the weight that is already upon us at his time of year.

Let this be your stay this day... "Joy". Count this to as your gift today.

### Song:

"Mary's Little Boy Child"

Watch at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOmup\\_7G9jA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOmup_7G9jA)

Long time ago in Bethlehem  
So the Holy Bible say  
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ  
Was born on Christmas day

Hark now hear the angels sing  
A new king born today  
And man will live forevermore  
Because of Christmas day

Trumpets sound and angels sing  
Listen what they say  
That man will live forevermore  
Because of Christmas day

While shepherds watch their flock by night  
They see a bright new shining star  
Then hear a choir sing  
The music seemed to come from afar

Now Joseph and his wife Mary  
Come to Bethlehem that night  
Then find no place to born the child  
Not a single room was in sight

Hark now hear the angels sing  
A new king born today  
And man will live forevermore

Because of Christmas day

Trumpets sound and angels sing  
Listen what they say  
That man will live forevermore  
Because of Christmas day

By and by they find a little nook  
In a stable all forlorn  
And in a manger cold and dark  
Mary's little boy was born

**Prayer:**

Thank you, God, for Joy, for the joys in our life, for the joys that you have brought our way. May we carry this joy on our frame, for all that we do this season is about you and the gifts that we have received from your hand. Amen.

**R.F.**