

THE
HEART
THAT GREW THREE SIZES

FINDING FAITH IN THE STORY OF **THE GRINCH**



December 18, 2022

“When Joy is Our Song”

Romans 12:17-21

**THORNDALE
United Methodist Church**

3503 Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA 19372
610-384-2433

www.thorndaleumc.org

All Are Welcome!

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,

and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Isaiah 35:1-10

+Stand as you're able.

PRELUDE Dave Kurtz

WELCOME & GREETING Pastor Shauna

CENTERING **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (#211 vs. 6 & 7) Dave Kurtz

+CALL TO WORSHIP & CANDLE LIGHTING Renay Oberholtzer

Leader: We light again the first three candles in our Advent wreath,
to remind us of God's gifts of hope, peace and love.
(Light the first three candles)

Today we will light the fourth candle, the candle of joy.

As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share and those we love. The prophet Zephaniah calls us to shout for joy, because God will transform the people.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angels brought "Good news of a great joy, which shall be to all people." The good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of Shalom are still "tidings of great joy" for us today.

Paul tells us to rejoice in God always.

The candle we light now reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.

(Light the fourth candle)

People: God of Joy, thank you for the excitement and delight we experience at this joyful time of year. Help us to share your joy with others, so that they too will be filled with your spirit. Amen.

+OPENING HYMN **O Come All Ye Faithful** (#234 vv. 1-3) Dave Kurtz

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pat Moore

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Pastor Shauna

OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger (#217)

Dave Kurtz

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Renay Oberholtzer

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy, And we give with joy. Joy for all you have given us; joy because of your sacred promises. Receive these generous offerings, and use them to spread your joy in our world. Amen.

VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aSBrmQaL88&t=2s>

SCRIPTURE—**Romans 12:17-21**

Renay Oberholtzer

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“When Joy is Our Song”

Brian Moulton

+CLOSING HYMN SING of JOY

Dave Kurtz

Good Christian Friends Rejoice (#224)

God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (#218)

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (#240)

Sing We Now of Christmas (#237)

+BENEDICTION

Pastor Shauna

POSTLUDE

Dave Kurtz

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

PASTOR

Rev. Shauna K. Ridge

TECH TEAM

Josh Dwyer

MUSIC

Dave Kurtz

Terry Moore

LITURGIST

Renay Oberholtzer

USHER:

Pete Scotti

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pat Moore