



12 December 2025

## Make room for joy!

We know the children's story "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

The not-nice, Christmas-hating creature with a heart two sizes too small hated Christmas, the whole Christmas season. With Christmas approaching he determined to find a way to stop it from coming.

He came up with an idea, a wonderful, awful idea. He would stop Christmas by stealing all the presents, decorations, food, the Christmas tree, and even the log on the fire.



So he headed out with empty bags and loaded up all the stockings, presents and food. When he finished he sat back and waited for the cries, but was surprised to hear very merry sounds.

He puzzled til his puzzler was sore. He finally realized that Christmas means more than what comes from a store and, with that change of heart, quickly returned all he had stolen.

Christmas, we know, is about Jesus coming into the world to be our Savior. One of the sparkling facets of this best ever gift is joy. The angel said to the shepherds,

"I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

Does joy characterize you now as Christmas is drawing closer?

There are many joy-stealing grinch:

Busyness

Painful memories

Present stresses and strains

Comparing yourself and your situation with others

Worrying

Trying to make everything perfect

Unresolved conflicts

And the list goes on.

We can make room for all sorts of things at Christmas, sometimes squeezing them in. Make sure you are making room for joy this Christmas. After all, the angel's message to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born, again, was,

“I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Then a huge choir of angels joined in,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased.”

How about a few starters for making room for joy, for celebrating with joy?

- You may need to “unpack” some things from your mind and schedule.
- Make room for really focusing on Jesus and spending time with Him. Remember Psalm 16 tells us, “In [God's] presence is fullness of joy” (verse 11).
- Think about why Jesus came and what that means for the world, for you.
- Celebrate thankfulness. I find being thankful and expressing it releases joy.
- Explore the meaning in some of our familiar Christmas carols, starting with “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come.”

Make room for joy this Christmas!

Pastor Lyle

