

Our Joyful Hope

Hope is a _____ of God's faithfulness.

Because of Jesus, we have

the joyful hope of _____

So we can:

1. _____ with joyful hope

2. _____ with joyful hope

3. _____ this joyful hope

For Further Reflection and Discussion

Opener: What is your favorite (or least favorite) Christmas song?

How did God speak to you or work in you at church this Sunday?

Read the last two lines of Psalm 30:5. What do you think this means? Is it a description, a promise, both?

- How have you seen this in your life?
- Think about your life in this season and how much weeping vs. joy you are experiencing. In keeping with this verse, what "time" is it? (middle of the night, sunset, dawn, full day, etc.)

Look at Isaiah 9:1-7. What causes for joy will there be for those who have walked in darkness?

- Of these, which seems most pertinent in your life and the lives of people you know?

Read Luke 1:76-79. If we believe that what these verses and the verses from Isaiah 9 promise are available because of Jesus, then how would we pray for ourselves and others?

The end of Revelation (21:3-4, 22:5) talks about a future free from tears, pain, and death, and believers living in a city where there is no more night. What difference could this knowledge of what is to come make for us now?

The Scriptures about Jesus' birth use language of joy and rejoicing (in addition to the verses from Isaiah 9 and Luke 1, see for example Luke 2:10). Do you think joy is something that can be chosen, or is it something you either feel or don't feel?

- Do you think celebration can happen by a choice, or only spontaneously? Why or why not?

What will it look like for you to celebrate the joyful hope of new beginnings through Jesus this Christmas season?

How can we pray for one another?