

The Gift of Joy

Warren Mueller

Jesus was so certain of his purpose that he predicted when and how he would die (Matthew 26:2). What is our purpose?

Some would answer that it is to love God while others might say that it is to serve him. Hebrews 12:2 says: *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Jesus looked beyond the suffering, shame, and death he knew was to come and focused on the joy that would be. What is this joy that so motivated him?

The Bible says that there is great joy in heaven whenever a sinner repents (Luke 15:10). Likewise, the Lord rewards good works and there is joy in hearing him say, “Well done good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21, 23) Therefore, Jesus anticipated the joy that would happen when each person would repent and be saved. He also looked forward to the joy that would result from each good work done by believers in obedience and motivated by love.

Ephesians 2:1-10 tells us that by nature we are rebellious towards God and are born spiritually dead. It is by his love and grace that he brings us to faith and reconciliation. God has even planned our good works (Ephesians 2:10)!

What then is our purpose?

We can give him joy! What a wonderful God we have who honors sinners like us by giving us the ability to give him pleasure! He rejoices and experiences joy as we respond to him in repentance, love and good works that bring him glory!

Give Jesus the gift of joy for he is looking forward to it!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

April 4, 2021

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon **Get Up and Get Out**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Teachings from the Psalms with complementary songs.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: March 31st at the building, 6:30pm-** we will be continuing with our study of the minor prophets. Come at 6 and eat with us before the lesson.
- **Sojourners: Mike and Nadine Huddleston, Larry and Kay Little, Doug and Sandy Zimmerman and Dave and Kristy Bell** hope to be here the last week in June and the first two weeks in July.



NEWS

- We are hoping to resume our week three potluck dinners on the 18th of this month.



Arthur will be preaching today.

PRAYERS

- **Arthur's older brother Chris** who lives in Yorkshire, England has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Pray that he will open his heart to Christ soon.
- **Pat Gutherie** has had lung cancer reoccur in his left lung. Pray for another remission.
- **Jackie** has been having a lot of **pain from arthritis**. She has also recently **tested positive for Covid** despite having both shots a month ago. Please pray for her.
- **Gail Westerhold** is having a biopsy on one kidney to see if she has cancer. Please pray for her.
- Pray for **Don Myers** of Elmore, AL. Doctors now suspect he has Parkinson's Disease. He, Judy and grandson Jordon plan to move closer to Don's daughter and family within the month.
- **José Rivera**, Molly's husband, has been laid off work until he can stabilize his blood sugar levels. He is hoping to return to work soon.
- Pray for **Linnett Short, a former coworker of Paul's**. She has stage 3 lung cancer.
- **Arthur's sister, Sue**, has breast cancer for the third time, this time on the chest wall. She has the BRCA2 gene mutation. She will be treating it with two hormone suppressing medicines. Please pray for her.
- **Arthur** had his second Covid shot yesterday. Meanwhile, he is **being treated for a tick bite** on his arm, which is quite inflamed.
- **Winnie Carlisle, one of our sojourners in 2019, has breast cancer**. She has just recovered from a bad case of Covid that resulted in double pneumonia and a stay in ICU. Please pray for her.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.