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Christmas Worship Experience
TONIGHT @ 6-8 pm
WS South Sanctuary

Join us as we celebrate
 the birth of Jesus Christ.

WEST SIDE YOUNG ADULTS

Cookie Exchange

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST 6PM
 @ Lisa Sanders' Home

**PLEASE BRING A BATCH OF
 HOMEMADE COOKIES**

RSVP to Kristin: (253) 670-0707

Come join us for

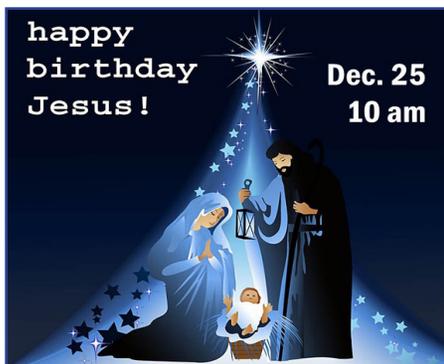
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Dec. 24: 4:00*, 5:30*, 7:00 pm
 *childcare available



happy
 birthday
 Jesus!

Dec. 25
10 am



Come join us @ WS North!

2 Service Sundays
Dec. 22 & 29:

9:00 am
Contemporary Worship

11:15 am
Traditional Worship



NO Sunday School

Financial data: Jan. 1, 2019 Beginning Balance \$59,595; 2019 YTD Income \$859,520; 2019 YTD Expenses (\$931,978); Ending Balance Oct. 31, 2019: (\$12,863).



THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE:

Choosing Joy

Nehemiah 8:5-12 (NIV)

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

⁷ The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maa-seiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve."

¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

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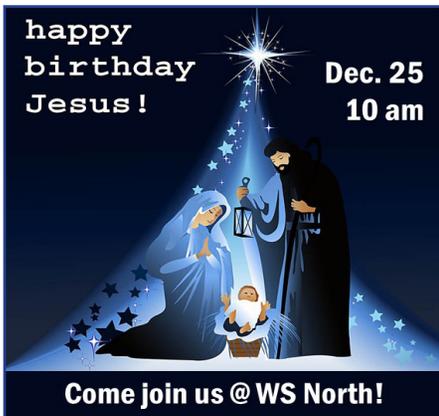


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9:00 am
Contemporary Worship

11:15 am
Traditional Worship

NO Sunday School



Dec. 15, 2019 • 11:15 am

- Prelude** Janet Bell
- Greetings & Life in the Church** Patrick Grover
- Call to Worship** Isaiah 55:12-13
- Leader: You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace.
 People: The mountains and the hills will burst into song before you.
 Leader: All the trees of the field will clap their hands.
 People: Instead of the thorn bush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briers, the myrtle will grow.
 All: This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed.
- Songs of Worship & Praise**
- Good Christian Men, Rejoice* No. 273
Angels We Have Heard On High No. 278
- First Scripture Reading** John 15:9-12
- Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon**
- Song of Thanksgiving** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* No. 279
- Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**
- Second Scripture Reading** Nehemiah 8:5-12
- Message** *Choosing Joy* Rev. Karel J Coppock
- Song of Response** *How Great Our Joy!* No. 269
- Offering** *Celebrate!* Adult Choir
The Joy And The Wonder Of Christmas
- Doxology & Celebration of Life**
- Benediction**
- Postlude**

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Choosing Joy

SERMON NOTES

“The Joy of the Lord is your strength!” (Neh 8:20)

What does this phrase mean, and what is the key to finding joy in the midst of pain?

I. Delight in simple pleasures

- Fatigue undermines it
- Psalm 86:4
- Common Grace
- Proverbs 8:30-31

II. Delight in God’s love for you

- Remember who you are
- Romans 11:29
- Zephaniah 3:17
- Romans 8:33-34

III. Delight in loving others as God has loved you

- John 15:9-12
- Money can be a barrier or a blessing

IV. Delight in God’s joy

- The Trinity
- Not the Jonas Brothers’ idea
- Leslie Newbigin
- The wound of Odysseus

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the simple pleasures of life that give you joy?
2. What pleasures at Christmas time most uplift you?
3. Are there some things you would rather avoid at Christmas?
4. When you think of your relationship to Christ, what do you think God’s feelings are toward you?
5. What is a hindrance in believing in God’s love?
6. How does God help you to show his love to others?
7. When you think of God’s joy, what comes to mind?
8. What in Sunday’s message most struck you?