



Sermon Outline:

Living with joy

Main point: God shares his joy with us in Jesus

Intended response: Jesus means we can live with joy –
and it doesn't depend on our circumstances

Key verse: Luke 1:39-45

Introduction:

- > It's Christmas Eve so most people today probably have a secret gift or two that they are keeping.
- > I wonder what is the biggest secret of joy you have ever kept/shared/heard?
- > Mary had a secret. Her secret was life changing! Mary's secret would bring joy to the world.

Intro launch: A secret of great joy is about to be revealed.

A/ The joy of sharing

- > Mary had news of great joy that she wanted to share.
- > God wants to share joy with us in creation and in Jesus.
- > The joy of sharing shows we are made in the image of God.

B/ The joy of receiving.

- > Mary's cousin Elizabeth finds joy in receiving the news of Jesus from Mary.
- > There is joy in receiving and recognising the gifts of God – and especially his love in coming into the world.

C/ Jesus is reason for us to live with joy even in the difficult times of life.

- > Happiness comes and goes and is dependent on our circumstances.
- > Joy is deeper and is NOT dependent on our circumstances.
- > Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death – can take that love away.
- > We can choose to be joyful – to receive the gift of God's love.