



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **God With Us in Sorrow**
Speaker: **Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**
Scriptures: **Isaiah 9:1-5**

9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

2 The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Pastor Rich will continue our Advent series through selected passages in the book of Isaiah. He will preach on the theme of sorrow. He will offer a message about the importance of joy and how Jesus leads us to joy and meets us in our pain.

Sermon Questions:

1. What brings you joy?
2. "Joy comes when God breaks in." Where do you need God to break in or have you noticed joy breaking in because of God's provision?
3. "Joy can be challenging for us to live out for a couple of reasons: it feels hard to cultivate when our life circumstances are not joyful or it feels bad to feel joy when there is so much pain in the world." Why do you think joy has been difficult for you to experience?

Remember, joy according to the world is based on our circumstances. Christian joy runs deeper and is far more stable because it flows from life in God.

4. Pastor Rich shared five practices to position us to experience joy (Sunday Worship, Children, Generosity, Play & Delight, & Prayer). Which comes easiest to you and which is the hardest for you to participate in?
5. How can you take an intentional step to position yourself to experience the joy that can only be produced by God this week?