



12-20-20
Longing for Joy
Isaiah 9:1-7



CELEBRATION - HOW DID YOU SEE GOD THIS WEEK AS YOU FOLLOWED HIM?



WORD - WHAT DID GOD SAY IN HIS WORD?

Opening Question: It feels like COVID-19 wants to be the Grinch that stole the joy of Christmas. How has your joy been robbed this year?

In the sermon, Pastor Mitch said joy is restored when Jesus shines light in darkness, overcomes oppression, and rules with peace and justice. Let's read how the passage address those areas.

Read together: Isaiah 9:1-7

Reflect together:

What images are used to describe joy in the passage? (v.3)

What images are used to describe oppression in the passage? (v.4-5)

What are the names given to describe Jesus? (v.6) Of these various names of Jesus, which one do you cling to right now and why?

What will Jesus' rule look like? (v.7) Jesus did not come just for our personal salvation but also to establish his kingdom of justice and righteousness. How does anticipating Jesus' reign of justice and righteousness strengthen your heart so that you don't give up or grow disillusioned? How does it encourage us to keep working toward "his kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven"?



HEART - WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME THROUGH HIS WORD?

Which of the three promises of Jesus restoring joy (by shining light, overcoming oppression, and reigning with peace and justice) resonate with you most and why?

Where do you long to see the rule of Jesus breakthrough even more?



WORLD

What actions can you take help restore joy for others in this season?

Where do you see the rule of Jesus breaking through in our community and how can you partner with God in that work rather than growing discouraged by "doing it on your own"?