

“Do You See What I See? Joy”  
Psalm 126 Common English Bible  
December 17, 2017 Third Sunday of Advent  
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Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, Palm Harbor, Florida

**(Video clip of Mr. Bean Christmas morning)**

It's Christmas time. Joy! Joy! Joy! Mr. Bean played by Rowan Atkinson had a TV show in the early 1990's. Now I showed that clip 5 years ago---but I wanted to bring it out of the vault as we talk about “Do You See What I See? Joy”

This week look for Joy. Especially if you see someone jumping around like Mr. Bean. Post a photo of where you see joy on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter with **#phumcjoy**. We will show them next Sunday morning.

Speaking of next Sunday morning---it is Christmas Eve. **(image)** Just a reminder we have one service in the morning at 9:30? What time? xxxxx At that service we will finish our sermon series “Do You See What I See? Love.” Also we will conclude that service with a Candlelight and singing of Silent Night. Then at 4 p.m. we will have a 45 minute Family Service **(image)** Our children's choirs will be singing. A special Lego script about Christmas and will end the service with child friendly glow sticks. At 7 p.m. **(image)** the message is “Seeing, Hearing, and Experiencing Christmas.” Choir will be present, and it will be Candlelight. Our 11:05 p.m. service will have more acoustic driven music and will be Candlelight and Communion. The message is “Seeing, Hearing, and Experiencing Christmas.” There is a different message in the morning, but the 7 and 11:05 messages will be the same. Lots of choices. Also as a reminder on New Year's Eve there will also only be one service. It will be at 9:30.

Sarah can tell you; actually my mom can tell you that I've always been hyper about Christmas. Do you see what I see? (Platform...joy) (Joy and wonder, trees, gifts, sled, snow) There was Joy last week at the musical. Thank you Worship and Arts Team xxxxx. There was joy at our Westlake Christian School Christmas Concert with around 1000 people. There was joy Thursday evening at The Robin's Nest Christmas program. Lots of Joy happening in this place. So here we are again. I'm expecting and anticipating JOY.

Psalm 126 recalls a previous time of God's mercy upon His people. The Psalm asks for a fresh and new outpouring of good news and mercy. It is a song of joy for Jerusalem. It a voice of joy.

4 of the 6 verses in the Psalm have a form of the word JOY in them. Oh to have that much of a percentage of lives being joyful.

**Psalm 126:2 2 Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts. It was even said, at that time, among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them!”**

Mouths filled with laughter. Who doesn't love a belly laugh? Have you ever started laughing and couldn't stop. Some people laugh so hard they start snorting. Some people laugh so much they start crying. I get to laughing and start a ha, ha, ha, hoo, hee...and then Sarah and the kids will say... "There he goes." My eyes water..joy squirts out, I hold my belly and well just let it out and laugh and laugh and laugh. I'm just about worn out when that happens.

Mouths filled with laughter. I love hearing laughter. It pains me when I hear yelling or families arguing. Oh for us to carry joy into the world.

Our tongues filled with Joyful shouts. Woo-hoo! We shout at ballgames, we shout to get someone's attention, why not have our tongues filled with joyful shouts!

It was said in scripture: "At that time...the Lord has done great things for them!" Ah, at that time, that time in the past the Lord had done great things for THEM. But what about us? Do it again Lord. Do a great thing again.

**Psalm 126:3 "Yes, the LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed."** Yes, the Lord has done it again. He has done great things for US. Not a them...but US. And scripture says we are OVERJOYED.

Restore that joy. Help us not just to have joy, but be OVER joyed.

Now when you fill up your car with gas there is usually an auto cut off when your gas tank is full. Now if you are like me, I keep pumping a little bit more in. I don't like to pay a bill with a kind of unusual amount. Rather than \$19.27 I fill it up to pay \$19.50. I know just kind of weird, I suppose. Back years ago there was not an automatic shut off at the pumps. You could be filling your tank and be talking or simply not paying attention and the gas would keep coming and pour out of the tank down your car and on the ground. What if our joy was overly full? What if we were overjoyed? What if our joy was contagious and spilled over onto others.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-iWZvdzeGM>) Contagious laughter

Let's get it started at PHUMC...contagious joy because of Jesus. Not just a Happy Hour, but a Joy Hour that spills beyond this hour and touches others. Laugh and be joyful so that it makes people wonder what you're up to. Joy and Wonder. Laugh because Jesus has done great things for us. (image-- #phumcjoy)

Although this season is about Joy even in Psalm 126 and maybe especially today we can relate to verse 4.

**Psalm 126:4 LORD, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste!**

Just as it was cried then perhaps our cry is “Lord change our circumstances for the better!” Perhaps we feel like we are dry streams in the desert waste. As the song says, “Yes we need a little Christmas right this very minute. For we need a little music, need a little laughter, need a little singing, ringing through the rafter.” Oh we need a little Christmas now.

**Psalm 126: 5 Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.**

Oh for those that plant with tears to reap a harvest. Many have had tears this year. A loss of one kind or another. Please take note in the bulleting of the Blue Christmas service that Rev. Cathy and I will be leading this Wednesday at 6:30 in room 202. Use the North entrance and park in the back by the office overhang. At some time we pray you will reap a harvest and even have a joyful shout.

**Restore that joy the Psalmist says. Psalm 126:6 Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed, come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!**

They go out crying, but they come home with joyful shouts. Let me switch that a little. Through Jesus who is our hope, who is our peace, who is our joy may we go out from this place and come home with home with joy because of Jesus.

In the New International Version of the Bible the word joy is used around 214 times. Let me share some scripture. Oh I won't share all 214, but I'll call it my Top Ten.

Psalm 30:5---joy comes with the morning.

John 16:22---and no one will take your joy from you.

John 15:11---that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

1 Peter 1:8-9---rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

Psalm 5:11---But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy,

Psalm 16:11---in your presence there is fullness of joy

Galatians 5:22-23---But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace

Luke 15:6-7---I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Psalm 32:11---Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice...shout for joy

Philippians 4:4---Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Oh the Psalmist talks of God changing circumstances for the better. Restore our joy Lord...do it again. Do it again. And He did just that.

**Luke 2: 8-10**

**<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.**

This Jesus was born to give us life. To give us laughter---even contagious laughter. To give us joy. And the angels sing---Jesus Christ is born. Alleluia. He is Christ the Lord.

The One who saves is worthy of all praise.

Good news that will CAUSE great JOY for all people.