



## Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

Joy does not depend upon what is happening in the world. There are lots of reasons for despair, for anxiety, and for bleakness. However, there are also reasons for joy. Joy is not dependent on which political party is in power or how the economy is doing. Joy is dependent on a little faith that there is good in the world, hope that things can get better, and knowing that we are loved and have the capacity to love God, ourselves, our neighbors, and even those we count, or who count us as enemies.

Joy can be found around us in sunrises, waves breaking over the rocks on the North Shore or the barrier on the Harbor, the song of the birds, the laughter of a baby, the embrace of a friend or relative, a song to listen to, a painting to explore, a picture on social media that captures our breath, a walk outside, and in our favorite Christmas movie.

The world is broken, but it is not inherently evil. Even the Palestinians have had hope and reasons to find joy in the simple things in the 57 years of occupation. One country, or people, or religion, or political party is not absolutely good or evil. We are all human. So, to find and share joy, while at the same time being compassionate and working for justice for all, is a hard balance to find. We cannot do it perfectly, but we can correct our behavior, our thoughts, and beliefs to be a little better today and tomorrow.

This third Sunday of Advent, we gather for our Christmas Pageant to have some fun, shine some light, and anticipate the Christmas Cookie Sale afterwards. This is the Sunday for Joy. May it be so...

Peace