

# Historic White Marsh Church

December 14, 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude Marjorie Lampkin - Pianist

Hymn ~ 265 The First Noel

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-55 Pat Larsen

Hymn ~ 269 How Great Our Joy

Prayer & Praise

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Kids Talk Sandi Sutherland

Special Music: Joy to the World Choir

Sermon: "Joy: The Good News That Changes Everything"  
Pastor Brad

Hymn ~ 271 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Benediction & Postlude

## Visitors:

**Welcome to our church!** Please fill out the visitor card at your pew, then give it to Pastor Brad or place it in the offering box.

**Sunday: Bible Explorers at 9:45 AM & Worship at 11:00 AM**  
**Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00 PM**

## JOY: The Good News That Changes Everything

Luke 1:46-55

### The Elusive Pursuit of Joy

True joy comes when you recognize that God has shown us grace that we don't deserve.

### Joy Promised Has Its Roots in Old Testament Scripture

In the Old Testament, joy was often expressed through worship, thanksgiving, celebration, obedience, and remembrance of God's faithfulness. (Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 51:12, Isaiah 12:3)

### Joy Announced — The Angel and the Shepherds

Joy is rooted in this declaration: The Savior has come; God has not forgotten His people. (Luke 2:10-11)

### Joy Expressed — Mary's Song of Praise

Joy is not the absence of problems— joy is the presence of God working in the middle of them. (Luke 1:46–55)

### Joy Revealed — What Makes Gospel Joy Unique

- Joy is rooted in God's unchanging character. (Psalm 5:11)
- Joy is produced by the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)
- Joy is strengthened in trials. (James 1:2)
- Joy is sustained by hope. (Romans 12:12)
- Joy is completed in Christ. (John 15:11)

### Joy Applied—How We Walk in Joy Daily

- Rehearse God's faithfulness daily.
- Choose worship over worry. (Psalm 31:7)
- Share joy with others. (Luke 2:17)
- Anchor your heart in future hope. (Revelation 21:4)
- Let joy strengthen you in hard times. (Nehemiah 8:10)
- Joy manifested - seeing Christ clearly. (Luke 2:20)

### Discussion Questions:

1. What things or occurrences steal your joy most easily?
2. How does abiding in Jesus produce lasting joy?
3. Why does obedience often lead to deeper joy rather than less joy?
4. Who can you intentionally encourage or bless with joy this week?

**Announcements for December 14, 2025:**

**Pray for LCPS, NCPS, and our community Homeschoolers.** Join us at Historic White Marsh for prayer this **Wednesday, December 17, at 5 p.m.**

**The Lancaster Community Library Bookmobile** will be here this **Friday, December 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**On Sunday, December 21,** the Torgerson children will present a special Christmas play, **“A Little Ragamuffin Christmas,”** which they wrote, during the worship service. The service will also feature special Christmas music presented by members of our church family.

**Friendship Fellowship** next Sunday, December 21, following the worship service.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** December 24 at 7 p.m.

***Tithes & Offerings:*** Please use the wooden **offering box** or *mail your offering to: PO Box 24, Lancaster, VA 22503. Thank you!*

**Historic White Marsh Social Media:**

Facebook: [@historicwhitemarshchurch](#)

YouTube: [Historic White Marsh Church](#)

Alabaster Grace Ministries

Website: [alabastergraceministries.org](http://alabastergraceministries.org)

Facebook: [@alabastergraceministries](#)

YouTube: [Alabaster Grace](#)

Sundays with Alabaster Grace on 101.7 Bay FM: 9:15-9:30 AM