



Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God is with us). Matthew 1:23

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid: for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour who is the messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10

Merry Advent/Christmas to you all!

This will be my last Advent/Christmas with you as your minister and so I wanted to do something a little different than just talking about light and hope amid darkness and despair; a message that is needed for both church and the world more than ever.

While the four Sundays of Advent in order are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, I want to focus on a reiteration of my message to you in my sabbatical report and focus on JOY. We all need some JOY in our lives when so much is stressful! I want to suggest to you that while the Joy in the Christmas story is about the birth of Jesus, the basis of deep spiritual Joy is the experience of feeling and knowing the presence of Christ in our lives!

God, in Christ, has saved, healed and liberated us in a way that empowers and makes sense of our lives, like nothing else. It is the foundation experience for all we do and are as church and without it we risk burn out. It answers the WHY of everything else built on that foundation.

My prayer for you this Advent/Christmas, and always, is that this experience of joy in God's presence and love will be real for you anew.

For those that have experienced the joy of your salvation, I invite you to recall it in your memory. For those who never have experienced it, I invite you to open your heart and, like the inn keeper, invite the Cosmic Christ in.

Rev. Phillip Kennedy
Clifton Pastoral Charge

**Please join us as we Joyfully celebrate the Advent/Christmas Seasons together
beginning November 30, 2025**

November 30th – Advent I: Hope

9:30 am Hilden; 11 am Old Barns

December 2nd – Tree Lighting, Carol Singing at the Spirituality Circle (Old Barns United Church)

December 5th – A Clifton Family Christmas

7:00 pm Old Barns United Church

December 7th – Advent II: Peace

9:30 am Old Barns; 11 am Hilden

December 14th – Advent III: Joy

9:30 am Hilden; 11 am Old Barns

December 21st – Advent IV; Love

9:30 am Hilden; 11 am Old Barns

December 21st – Christmas In The Barn at the Archibald-Waugh Farm

6:30 pm – 3442 Highway 236

December 24th – Lessons & Carols

4:30 pm Old Barns

December 24th – A Traditional Christmas Service

7:00 pm Hilden

December 28th – First Sunday after Christmas

Joint Service and Communion 10:00 am in Hilden

Charge potluck to follow

