

## SONGS OF JOY

Scripture: Psalm 126

December 10, 2020

**Message:** **It was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.**

### Psalm 126:2b-6 (NIV)

At this time of year, we look forward to losing ourselves a bit in the euphoric setting of lights, desserts, carols, and presents laid out in anticipation and celebration of the birth of the Savior. It is also sometimes hurried and stressful as we desperately try to get tasks completed and attend every cookie walk, concert, nativity, and family gathering. But in those moments, when the evergreen takes over the senses, it is not hard for us to find ourselves like “those who dream.”

Of course, our fortunes are vastly different than the generations who lived in exile in Babylon. Psalm 126 celebrates the triumphant return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, rejoicing with those who have returned and beckoning the Lord to bring back the rest of their brethren. The short phrases of Psalm 126 keep the potent meaning of rejoicing and sorrow terribly close: “May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.”

For all of us, we have had our times of sowing in tears and some of us may still be in the field this Christmas. All of us, though, are soon to be wrapped in the gaze of a baby, bringing love and hope and warmth. Let that image bring peace as we run around collecting bags and moments and, in the light of a tree, let us “. . . come home with songs of joy, carrying [our] sheaves” to welcome Emmanuel.

**Prayer:** Almighty God, as we hustle in this season, may we be at peace in your smile from the manger. Amen.

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