

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Joy In The Dark" 11/15/23

*I have told you this so my joy may be in you  
and so your joy may be complete. (John 15:11)*

It seems so many of us are world weary today. There is uncertainty in the air. Economic uncertainties, wars and the threat of wars, people being killed on our streets, food insecurity, homelessness, endless robberies, and natural disasters make headlines every day. People can't find work, businesses can't find help. We are all dealing with the loss of lives and the loss of dreams.

What's a person to do? How do we drag ourselves through another day? What's the point? In fact many people hide in their homes, unable or unwilling to face the day they never thought would come.

Meanwhile, to make matters worse, we compare ourselves to those who seem to have it all, they appear to not be facing the same reckoning day we are facing. How does that happen? Why do they skate and we suffer?

But really, no one has it easy. Those we think have it made – they have their own worries, also. We are all in different boats, for sure, but we all are in the same storm. Some boats are more water worthy, for some rowing is easier, some know how to sail, some are good at bailing. But it's a matter of life and death for all of us. Drat, this became a downer quickly. Life is tough, but in Christ we are tougher.

Forming a nation was not easy for our founding fathers. New thoughts, new direction, but even if they came from money, life was difficult in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, from staying healthy, to being warm, to keeping safe. John Adams, facing treachery and grief, wrote, "Griefs upon griefs. Disappointments upon disappointments. What then? This is a gay, merry world notwithstanding." How easy to cry over the grief and disappointment we face, how easily forgotten the gay and merry we enjoy.

God's Spirit was given to comfort us, to strengthen and to guide. Yes, we face difficulties, things don't go according to our plans, things just plain don't go well and we hurt, we're disappointed, we worry and wonder, but we can't let these tough times, these setbacks break us. God holds us during these times. Yes, there is grief and disappointments; but this is a gay and merry world, notwithstanding. There is light at the end of the tunnel. There is reason and purpose. There is joy.

## Pease pray with me:

God of comfort, Thank You for Your gift of joy. Help me to not lose sight of the strength which comes from joy during times of anxiety. We give You thanks and praise for Your presence, even in the dark.

**Amen.**