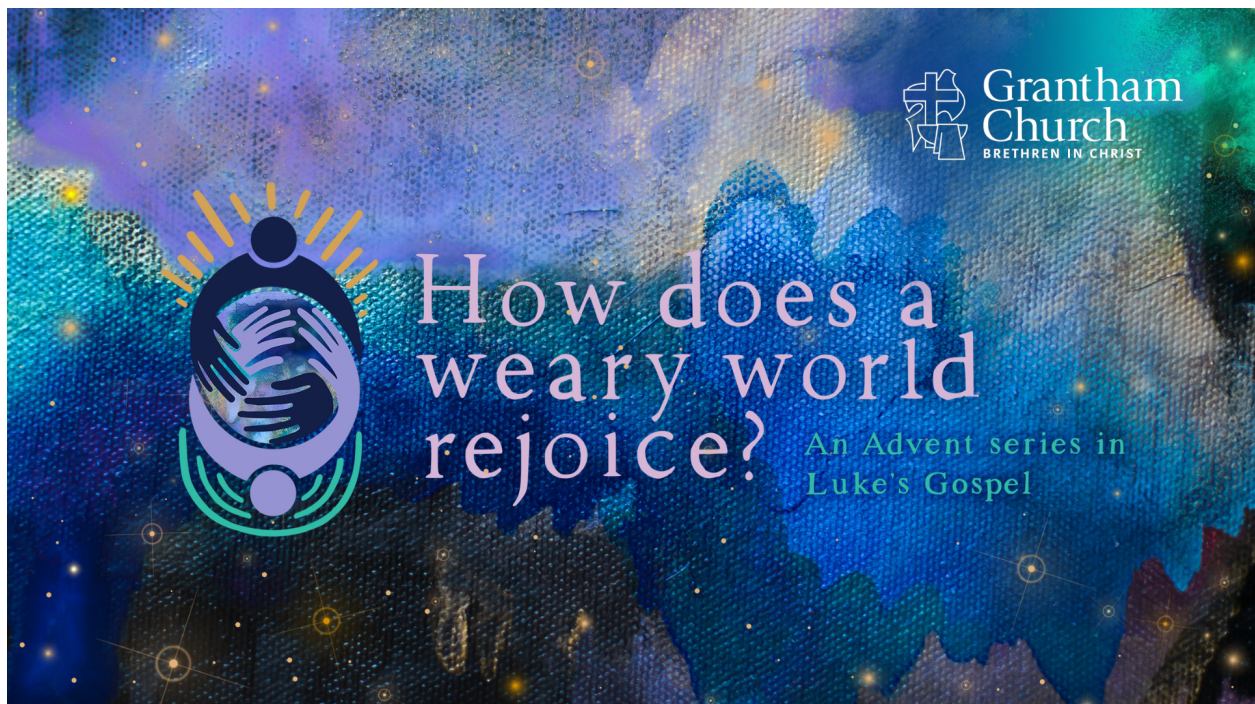


We Acknowledge Our Weariness

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, December 3rd, 2023



Sermon Title: We Acknowledge Our Weariness

Scripture Reading: Psalm 13:1-6, 51:10-12; Luke 1:5-23; Hebrews 3:12-15

Sermon Focus: As Advent begins, we start our series by recognizing the darkness of the world. In our own lives it can appear as grief, pain, fear, anger, disappointment, cynicism, hopelessness, etc. And sometimes our weariness can harden us to belief in the gospel and to God's goodness in our life, preventing us from living fully. In this first message, Pastor David invites us to reflect on the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth to help us acknowledge our weariness before God and affirm that we are made for joy.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Luke 1:5-23 together. What details jump out at you in this story? How does it challenge you? Can you sympathize with Zechariah and Elizabeth?
2. It appears that Zechariah's old age and calloused heart, from years of praying without an answer, had made it hard for him to receive the good news of the angel. Can you relate to this? Have you ever experienced something good happening, but you had a hard time taking it in because of your weariness?
3. Pastor David asked, "Have you ever been in a setting or situation that was joyous (or certainly had the potential for being joyous) but you were simultaneously mindful of something that wasn't right in the world?" Can you recall a specific time you've felt that way? How did it impact you? What did you do? Do you think it's possible to experience joy amid weariness?
4. What is the darkness that you need to name in the world? What weariness do are you carrying around in your own body and soul? Confess that to your group.
5. What does it look like for me you rejoice when you are weary? How is the Lord inviting you to welcome joy in your life? Give some tangible examples.
6. Be honest with your small group. Have past experiences and the weariness of the world hardened your heart to the goodness of God and to others? For example, do you have a hard time acknowledging good things in your life, our church, the world? If you're unsure, do you compliment or express kindness to others, or do you only point out things that are wrong? Also, do you ever project your previous experiences of pain and hurt onto others and make it difficult to receive the good things people do for you? After a time of honest confession, share how you'd like to open your heart to the goodness of God and of others.
7. How can your small group pray for you this Advent? Have someone in the circle begin that sharing and go clockwise from there. Once a person has shared, then have the person on their left pray for them until everyone has shared and been prayed for in the group. You may consider closing in a Christmas carol.