

# Christ Church Clifton Sermon Notes & Questions



**Series:** Worship - Summer 2022

**Passage:** Phil 4v4-13

**Preacher:** Janet Lee

**Date of Sermon:** June 5th 2022

Read Phil 4v4-13.

Reminder about celebration and joy, Queen's platinum jubilee, football matches, festivals in past where people gathered like Pentecost (festival of weeks). Examples of how we celebrate and choose to come together in exuberant praise, with joy.

## **<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!**

Rejoice – celebrating full of joy, not same as happiness, joy-fruit of the spirit.

Rejoice in the Lord – what do we rejoice in? And why? God is sovereign, in control, made us and the world. He is in charge. Rejoicing quickens our faith, reminds us of what he has done and will do.

Rejoice in the Lord always – always every situation. Look at Acts 16, Paul and Silas in Philippi jail yet singing and praying. Personal examples of praising God even when feel down or upset. Praise lifts us, turns our attitudes and mind set realigns them towards God. Choosing to worship God despite everything.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! – Paul repeats the command why? Stress emphasis.

See *1 Thess 5 <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

What does it mean to rejoice always? Pray continually? Give thanks whatever?

Read Phil 4v5-7 Gentleness also means forbearance and patience; how does that relate to rejoicing? So easy to read do not be anxious about anything, called to pray, give thanks and rejoice whatever to God. There is nothing you cannot bring before God. V7, And, as a consequence of prayer and thanks, then peace of God will guard you, your minds and hearts. When prayer replaces worry, God's supernatural peace comes in.

## **Questions for study:**

### **Optional starter - Share stories of praising God, in any way/place/circumstance of life.**

1. Read Phil 4v4, discuss rejoicing, how is joy not same as happiness?
2. Give as many reasons (10 000!) why we should rejoice in God.
3. *Always* includes when times are bad and difficult, give examples when you have done so, see Acts 16v22-34 for Paul and Silas.
4. Why does praising God change our mind set and quicken our faith?
5. Why does Paul repeat command rejoice! See 1Thess 5v16-18.
6. Read Phil 4v5-7. How easy or difficult do you find putting these verses into practice?
7. Verse 7 begins with **and**, what is the link between v4-6 and v7, God's peace coming.