From the Pastor’s Desk

December 13, 2015

The rose colored vestments today tell us this is Gaudete Sunday. This is one of two Sundays featuring the color rose. The other is during Lent known as Laetare Sunday. Both are Latin words for “rejoice”. To keep them straight just remember the L-words go together: Lent and Laetare.

Joy permeates the Scripture. Zephaniah tells us, Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Paul commands us to, Rejoice always. The Gospel relates John the Baptist teaching the good news of the One who is to come.

This might seem a bit excessive to us. It even hints at the expression of, (dare we say) emotion. Many of us, myself included, are much more comfortable with a faith primarily located in our heads. We are much more at home being God’s frozen chosen. This Sunday, however, will not let us off the hook.

Joy is wondrous because it can not be contained intellectually. It requires a physical expression. Pope Francis famously said, “Christians must not look like they are always coming from a funeral.” Gaudete Sunday is a built-in reminder of what we should be at all times: joyful followers of Christ.

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