## Devotion, Week of December 17, 2023 Rev. Jeanne Simpson

## Joy

I've Got The Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down In My Heart. Where? Down In My Heart! Where? Down In My Heart! I've Got The Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down In My Heart Down In My Heart To Stay And I'm So Happy, So Very Happy I've Got The Love Of Jesus In My Heart Down In My Heart. And I'm So Happy, So Very Happy I've Got The Love Of Jesus In Mv Heart. I've Got The Love Of Jesus, Love Of Jesus Down In My Heart. Where? Down In My Heart! Where? Down In My Heart! I've Got The Love Of Jesus, Love Of Jesus Down In My Heart. Where? Down In My Heart To Stay. And If The Devil Doesn't Like It He Can Sit On A Tack! Ouch! Sit On A Tack! Ouch! Sit On A Tack! And If The Devil Doesn't Like It He Can Sit On A Tack! Ouch! Sit On A Tack To Stay!

We just celebrated the Advent Sunday of Joy, and I thought of this song I used to teach my Children's Choir. I think the joy of children at Christmas is just incredible to watch – they are enthralled with everything – trees, lights, ornaments, fancy outfits to wear, and Santa Claus. The advent wreath, manger, tree, and Chrismon ornaments in the church just seem to glow with the special light of joy. The angels sang "Joy to the World, the Lord is come," and we sing that too. So I hope you experience joy this season. As the Book of James says in chapter 1:

"Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all." I hope as you deal with the busyness of this season, that you will stop and smell the fir trees and apple cider and peppermint, and be thankful for the joy that the birth of Christ has given you.

Jeanne