

## Sermon Discussion – 10 December 2023

Read Matthew 11:28; John 14:27; Matthew 9:10-13; Isaiah 43:2-3

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

Share one thing that makes the Christmas season busy for you. How do you navigate the busyness and find moments of joy? How do you prioritise and ensure you enjoy the season amidst the hustle and bustle?

### **Discussion**

1. In Matthew 11:28, we see God's invitation to the weary and burdened. In Matthew 9:10-13, Jesus says he has come for sinners. How do these invitations challenge traditional views of who is "faithful"? How inclusive is God's invitation, and how can we embody this inclusivity in our interactions with others?
2. How comfortable are you with acknowledging your weariness or struggles in your faith journey? In what areas of your life do you resonate with feelings of being unfaithful, doubtful, or fearful?
3. Share your thoughts on the concept of being called a sinner. How does recognising our need for a Saviour affect our understanding of Jesus' invitation?
4. If one way to define faithfulness is hearing and trusting the word of God, what is your posture towards God's Word? Do you find the Scriptures a source of rest, peace, and purpose? In what ways does hearing and trusting the word of God contribute to faithfulness?
5. Discuss the connection between faith and joy, as well as faith and triumph. How do you differentiate between joy and happiness? Share personal experiences where faith brought about joy or a sense of triumph.

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- In *Hope Explored*, Rico Tice touches on challenges such as disappointment, death, divorce, depression, disease, and disorder. How have you navigated through these challenges in your life? How has faith played a role in providing comfort and strength during difficult times?
- How can the themes of rest, joy, and triumph be incorporated into your daily life during the Christmas season and beyond?