



# THE LAMP

*Presbyterian Women's Quarterly Newsletter*  
*First Quarter 2019*

*Finding  
Joy*



## As the new year arrives, we search for the joy in our lives.



How wonderful would it be if we were to win the lottery or inherit a great deal of money! We have a tendency to think this would solve all our problems. But how wrong we are! Worldly joy is short-lived, but how is it possible to find the joy that lasts? Our world seems so fast paced and chaotic and yet we continue to search for something. What is that void in our life...how can we find the answer?

# HOW DO WE DISCOVER THAT ELUSIVE “SOMETHING?”

Scripture tells us that God is the answer. God’s Word says that trials are an opportunity to build endurance and grow in wisdom, so we can face them with joy (*James 1:2-4*). Another way is to become part of a group of Christians to study the Word (Bible). Guess what! We will learn about true love, peace, and joy. As we study different parts of scripture we discover more about Jesus and His gift of grace. We discover how God designed us to live. The prospect of the righteous is joy (*Proverbs 10: 28*).



## GOD LOVED US SO MUCH...

That He left Heaven and came to earth as a baby to become our “suffering servant.” How could He love us enough to go through that horrendous death on the cross? When all of the sins were on Him, He cried out, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?” Because of our sins, He was separated from God. That must be what Hell is like. Separation from God, but for eternity! May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace believe as you trust in Him (*Romans 15:13*).

God has given us many blessings. Our greatest blessing, the son of God willingly came to earth to teach His disciples and give us life instructions through the Bible. He willingly went to the cross and died a terrible death then rose on the third day. To believe in the resurrection is to believe in God. If God exists, and if He created the universe and has the power over it, then He has the power to raise the dead. If He does not have such power, He is not worthy of our faith and worship. Only He who created life can resurrect it after death, only He can reverse the hideousness that is death itself, and only He can remove the sting and gain the victory over the grave (*Corinthians 15: 54-55*). In resurrecting Jesus from the grave, God reminds us of His absolute sovereignty over life and death. Isaiah 53 emphasizes that we are the ones who left God’s path to follow our own way. Yet, God sent His son, Jesus to bear guilt and sins of each one of us. Jesus only asked God to forgive us. He was the lamb who was sacrificed for us.

**REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.**

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Another reason the resurrection of Jesus Christ is important is that it proves His sinless character and divine nature. The resurrection gives us hope, the capacity to transform our lives, and the ability to spend eternity with Christ. If this had not occurred, there would be no Christianity. Christ's death would have been in vain. God loves us and has a plan for our lives. He is always with us in good times and in difficult times. Do not grieve, for joy of the Lord is your strength (*Nehemiah 8:10*).

Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, who resides in the heart of the believer, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness..." (*Galatians 5:22*). Since God is the author of all these good things, when one becomes a Christian, and is united to God through faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit imparts these qualities to the believer. Joy is also an integral part of the Kingdom of God and will exist wherever believers are present, "For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (*Romans 14:17*).

When you make the decision to accept Christ's death to pay for your sins and you ask Him into your heart, the Holy Spirit indwells in you to guide your life. You are "born again" and adopted into Jesus' family. You will feel God's presence and you will feel joy, peace, and hope. You will be transformed and sin will no longer have power over you. You will still sin, but it will no longer have the same control over you.

**ANNUALLY, GIVE THANKS IN ALL  
'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.**

*Colossians 5:16-18*

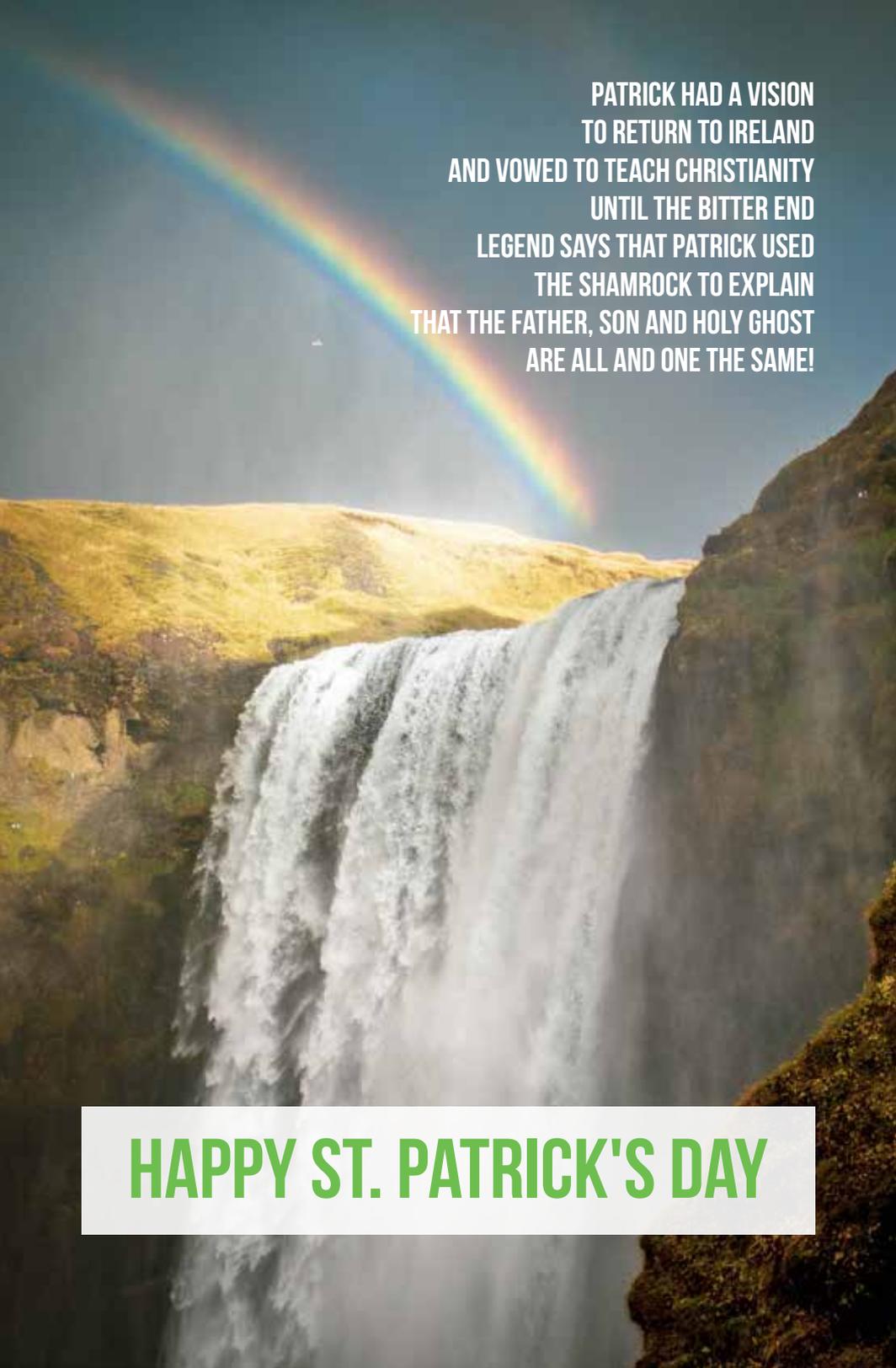
W E L O V E  
B E C A U S E  
H E F I R S T  
L O V E D U S

- 1 JOHN 4:19



"These things I have spoke to you, that my joy  
may be in you, and that you joy may be full."

*John 15:11*



**PATRICK HAD A VISION  
TO RETURN TO IRELAND  
AND VOWED TO TEACH CHRISTIANITY  
UNTIL THE BITTER END  
LEGEND SAYS THAT PATRICK USED  
THE SHAMROCK TO EXPLAIN  
THAT THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST  
ARE ALL AND ONE THE SAME!**

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

# Benediction

And now may the Lord go  
before us to guide us,  
behind us to encourage us.

May He Go beside us to befriend us,  
above us to watch over us  
and within us to give us peace.

We ask in Jesus' name,  
Amen.

## - Come Worship With Us -

Traditional Services: 9 & 11 am (Sanctuary)  
Contemporary Worship: 10 am (Campus Center)

## *mark your* **CALENDAR**

Welcome from Church of the Palms' Presbyterian Women. We are busy creating an exciting collection of events for members, visitors and friends of all ages to enjoy. Please check your weekly bulletin, monthly *Connect* Magazine, the church's website and e-blasts, and listen for announcements during church services. Also visit us at the PW table after services on Sunday.

