

**Joy to the World!**  
**Pre-K – Grade 5**  
**Sunday, December 3, 2017**



**This Week's Theme:** We celebrate our divine nature. Our divine connection to Spirit fills us with joy!

**Teacher Insights:**

- Joy is always available to us.
- As we connect with the God-light within us, we experience joy.
- No one has the power to make us feel sad or joyful. Joy is a choice.

**Inspirational Writing:**

Joy is the happiness of God expressed through His perfect idea: Humankind! - Charles Fillmore

True joy arises out of your contact with the spirit within you. When the contact is made, the joy breaks forth.  
- Richard and Mary-Alice Jafolla, *The Quest*

**Bible Verse:** Nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1: 37)

**Unity Principle #1:** God is all good and active in everything, everywhere.

**Unity Principle #5:** I do and give my best by living the Truth that I know. I make a difference!

**Affirmations:** I feel joy in my heart.  
I share joy with the world.

**Pre-Activity: 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Younger Students:** \* Color paper candle rings for upcoming Christmas service.  
\* "Joy" and "angel" holiday coloring sheets

**Older Students:** \* Community games.  
\* Color paper candle rings for upcoming Christmas services.

**Heart Agreements** describe ways we show respect for one another. We agree to have:

\* Gentle Hands    \* Open Hearts    \* Walking Feet    \* Listening ears    \* Kind Words

**Sacred Circle 11:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.**

Invite children to create an affirmation that describes how they feel today, for example: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am \_\_\_\_\_." Everyone affirms each child by saying, "(Name), you are \_\_\_\_\_." Continue until all have been affirmed.

**Centering Breath** for prayer: Breathe deeply and place your hand on your heart. Feel joy fill your heart. Breathe in joy, breathe out joy to the world.

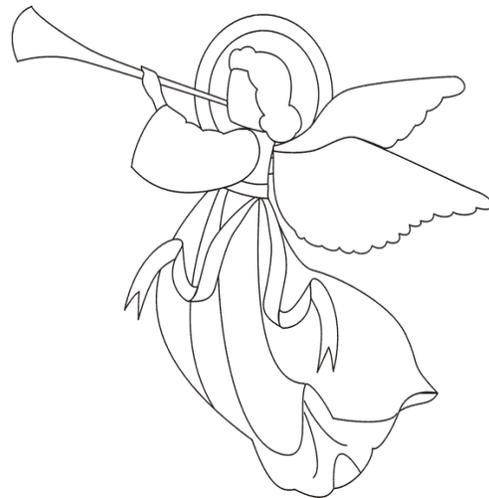
**Affirmation (Say together):** I feel joy in my heart.  
I share joy with the world.

**Lesson Introduction: 11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

**Let's Sing: Joy to the World**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing  
and heaven and nature sing  
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
let men their songs employ  
while fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy  
repeat the sounding joy  
repeat the sounding joy.



**Discussion:**

- What is "joy?"
- Describe a time when you felt joyful. Why did you feel joy?
- In what ways can we spread joy to others?
- Has good news ever filled you with joy?

**Today's Scripture: Mary & the Angel Gabriel (from Luke 1: 26-38)**

One day, a young woman named Mary was visited by the angel, Gabriel. "Don't be afraid, Mary," said the angel. "God loves you very much. You have been chosen to be the mother of a son and you will name him Jesus."

**Younger Children:** *The Angel's Secret, The Beginners' Bible*, pp. 267 - 271

**Older Children:** *Mary & the Angel, Gabriel* (Luke 1: 26-38); see Scripture sheet

**Discussion:**

- What is an angel? (Angels are divine thought and pure love. Angels surround us; always reminding us that we are deeply love.)
- Why did an angel appear to Mary?
- How did Mary feel when she learned she was going to be the mother of Jesus?
- What did the angel tell Mary about her son who would be born?
- What did Mary say to Gabriel before he left?
- Can you describe a time when you felt an angel's presence in your life?

**Older Children:**

- Have you ever received unexpected news?
- What was so unusual about Mary giving birth to a child?
- Do you think she felt happy when the angel appeared?
- Why do you think she decided to be the Mother of Jesus?

## **Creative Expression: 11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.**

### **Younger Children: My Own Angel**

**Materials:** \* Angel cut-outs \* Crayons or markers \* Scissors \* Glue sticks  
\* Construction paper hands (for wings) \* Hole punch \* Yarn or ribbon

1. Select and color an angel cut-out.
2. Trace the child's hand prints on construction paper
3. Use a glue stick to adhere the hand print/wings to the back of the angel.
4. Thread a piece of ribbon or yarn through the hole at the top of the angel. It can be used to hang at home to remind your child of the Divine presence of love around them at all times.

### **Older Children: Framed Mandala (Christmas presents for parents)**

The word "mandala" is Sanskrit for "circle." Each mandala is a special work of art that is unique to each artist. For many Buddhist and Hindu artist, the creation of a mandala can be a holy personal experience.

**Materials:** \* Mandalas \* Sharpie markers \* Colored pencils \* Aluminum foil  
\* Glue sticks \* Frame \* Scissors

1. Select and use markers or colored pencils to color a mandala.
2. Cut out the mandala circle.
3. Fold and cover the back of the picture frame with aluminum foil.
4. Use a glue stick to adhere the mandala to the surface of the back of the picture frame.
5. Remember to sign your name on your work of art!
6. Encase the finished mandala within the picture frame.

## **Closing Prayer/Circle: 11:50 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.**

Let's pause quietly. Breathe in the joy that surrounds us. We send thoughts of joy to everyone in the world. (Pause)

**Source of Joy, the love we feel inside with your presence fills us with joy. We hold joy in our hearts and send joyful blessings out to others. We share joy with the world.**

**Join everyone in the church for closing songs.  
We will return to classrooms after the blessing.**

## **Teacher Reminders: Please HELP**

- Encourage children to help tidy up the classroom.
- Remind parents and adults responsible for children to sign out before they take a child out the classroom.
- Return the teacher tub and all supplies to the Resource Room.

## Joy to the World

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## Mary and the Angel, Gabriel

Adapted from Luke 1: 26-38

A young woman named Mary lived in a small town called Nazareth. Even though Mary was only about 14 years old, she was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. Joseph was a carpenter.



One day, God sent an angel named Gabriel to visit Mary. Mary was frightened when she saw the angel. "Hello, Mary. You are highly favored by God," said Gabriel. "God is with you."

Mary did not understand why an angel wanted to speak to her.

"Don't be afraid, Mary," said the angel. "God loves you very much. You have been chosen to be the mother of a son and you will name him Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High. His kingdom will have no end."

"I don't understand," said Mary. "How can this be?"

"The Holy Spirit will come to you and the power of the Most High will be with you," explained the angel. "Your child will be called the Son of God. Your cousin, Elizabeth, could never have children. Now she will give birth to a son, too. Nothing is impossible with God."

"I am here to serve God," said Mary. "May it be as you have said."

Then the angel left her.



# Color the Christmas Angels

Color in the image by coloring: 1. Yellow 2. Blue 3. Purple 4. Green





