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## Joy in All Seasons

*A Meditation*

*by Reverend Linn Possell, PAC Lead Mentor Coach*

This time of year, many of us celebrate. Depending on who we are, where and how we have been raised, and what our life paths have been to this point, we celebrate different things. Some of us celebrate family, some of us celebrate miracles, some celebrate light, and some celebrate hope. These things such as family, light, miracles, and hope are things that have the potential to bring us together, and togetherness is what helps us move forward and gives us the strength to live through the trials that life can sometimes bring.

This time of year we can spend a lot of time anticipating and preparing for our celebrations, and it is in this time before our celebrations of miracles, light, and hope that we have the chance to take a moment and think about why it is that we continue to celebrate even in the midst of difficult times.

One of the reasons for this is in our preparation, we remember that our miracles, our light, and our hope came from times of trial and remind us that the possibilities for joy continue to exist beyond both our trials and our celebrations. In fact, the times where miracles and light and hope most exist is in the normal every day of our life.

Howard Thurman once wrote a litany that I have used every Christmas Eve as a pastor. I believe that it can speak to all of humanity and so I share it with you in this holiday season. Please take a moment and reflect on what this can mean to you and your life.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart