**Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceChildren’s Sermon**

Good morning, dear friends! Seeing you this morning brings me so much joy. (As children are coming up, give them a sticker or something small indicating joy.) I wonder what brings you joy. (Allow some responses as you are comfortable and feel led to do so.) You know, something else that brings me joy is when I see other people experiencing joy. Today we will have the opportunity to experience joy through giving. Raise your hand if you like to receive presents. Does receiving presents bring you joy?

Well, guess what friends? The Holy Scriptures tell and teach us that we should be just as joyful to give gifts as we should be to receive gifts. God loves a cheerful giver and God provides grace and abundance to those of us who give cheerfully. So, when we give, God wants us to have a happy face. Can you show me your happy face? Our Christmas Joy Offering makes a lot of our friends experience joy. Like our friends at (name an organization, person, school, university or college your church has supported). We honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by giving to others in their time of need and developing our future leaders.

So, quick review …

Should we be excited to give?

Should giving make us angry?

Should giving bring us joy?

(To the tune of “IF YOU’RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT”)

If you’re joyful and you know it shout AMEN

If you’re joyful and you know it shout AMEN

If you’re joyful and you know it then let your giving show it

If you’re joyful and you know it say AMEN

Let us pray.

Repeat after me.

God/

Help me be joyful/

When I give to others/

And may my giving/

Bring joy to others/

Thank you for/

The abundance to give/

In Jesus’ name/

Amen/