



Wandering For God

with Pastor Stephen Rehrig
First Presbyterian Church
of Hillsboro

Don't Be Robbed Of Joy

Back in my young days, we moved to New Jersey for my father's work. Our first Thanksgiving there, he took me into New York to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. I still remember watching the balloons and the bands, the floats and the clowns as they each passed by.

I have since always enjoyed watching the parade on TV, and was doing so with my son one Thanksgiving Day when he was about five years old. We had been watching for about 30 minutes when he turned to me and said: "Daddy, when is the parade going to start?"

Wow, out of the mouth of

babes. What we were watching were promos for one Broadway show after another; singers doing bad lip-syncing; and listening to announcers talk about their network's new series in the upcoming season. Suddenly, I felt robbed.

As you prepare your own heart for Christmas, do not let the news of the day, the agenda of strangers or the irritations of life rob you of the joy that can fill you.

Christmas is coming with all of its magic, its mystery, its warmth and its joy. Above and behind the noise of the world it is there. Look for it, grab ahold of it, and do not ever let it go.