

Week Three - Advent — Joy

This is the third Sunday in Advent. Do you remember why we are taking time to be together around our Advent wreath?

To remember that Advent is a time of preparation. During these days we are getting our hearts ready for the coming of the Christ Child.

On the first Sunday we lit the candle of hope. (*Light the first purple candle.*)

We wait with hope for the day when we celebrate again the birth of Jesus.

On the second Sunday we lit the candle of love to remind us that Jesus came to earth to show and tell us of God's love. (*Light the second purple candle.*)

Today, on the third Sunday of Advent, I will light the candle of joy. (*Light the pink candle.*) Pink symbolizes a break in the darkness, and a time of joy as Christ's birthday gets closer.

We have joy as we remember God's gift of Jesus to the world.

Rejoice!

All Sing: "Joy to the World" or listen to: <https://youtu.be/X8VTilHfdbI>

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

Joy to the World, 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, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

When we look at the third candle, we remember God's promise of joy. God promised to send a Savior to the people.

In the Bible, we read of Mary's joy.

Luke 1:46-47: Mary said, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"

Mary's words can guide us to look for the joy of God even when things may be uncertain for us.

When Jesus was born, the angels comforted shepherds with the joy of the good news.

Luke 2:8-11: "There were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

During Advent we rejoice.

(Prayer): Lord, today we rejoice. We rejoice because our Lord and Savior, Jesus was born. Fill our hearts and our days with joy. We rejoice that you are with us always. Help us live in such a way that our words and our actions help others know of the joy you give. AMEN

Family Discussion:

Who in our world needs God's joy?

What are our hopes for joy in our world today?

How do we help others know that God gives joy?