

### **3rd Sunday in Advent – the candle of JOY**

**Celebrant:** Last Sunday the candle of Peace was lit. We light it again this Sunday, along with the candle of Hope, as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace.

#### ***Light the First and Second Advent Candles***

**Celebrant:** The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver his people.

God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all people – for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life – a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

#### ***Light the Third Candle***

**Celebrant:** Let us pray

**All: Loving God, We thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us to prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem.**

***Amen***

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