



Advent Week 3 -- Joy

A Liturgy to Use at Home

This liturgy can be done alone, with friends over Zoom, or as a household/family unit. If you share in it with others, be sure to include everyone (both the youngest and the oldest among you!) in the process. It could easily be used to start or end your day. It could be part of a dinnertime routine. As always, do as you can -- with freedom -- and enjoy!

Read: the scripture for the day from your Advent Link Chain (easy template and directions found here: www.the-river.org/advent/) or from the list below. (They are the same in both places.)

Light: the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd candles in your wreath, the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy...

And Pray:

*Joy-Giving One,
Thank you for the ways you accept and
celebrate all of who we are.
Thank you for the many, many ways
you live among us.
Teach us to recognize you
And share our joy.
Amen.*

Play: Song of the week: [O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#)

(There are endless versions on YouTube. This is a more creative take. Feel free to search and use a new one each day!)

Reflect:

Pick 1 or 2 each day...or stay with the one(s) you like most!

- Describe a time today when you felt joyful...or if not today, tell a story of a time in your life when you were joyful...
- Do you see joy in today's scripture passage? Where? What do you notice about what provokes joy?
- What could you do today or tomorrow that might increase your experience of joy?
- What could you do today or tomorrow that might bring joy to the people/world around you?

Create:

Consider making a Joy Collage this week, adding to it progressively each day. Print photos you've taken or clip images from websites and magazines that are joyful to you in some way. Arrange them together on a piece of paper. Let the collage be a sign of joy in your living space.

Scripture for this week**December 13th: Isaiah 9:6**

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.

December 14th: Luke 2:8-12

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

December 15th: Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

December 16th: Luke 2:15-16

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger.

December 17th: Luke 2:17-20

After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

December 18th: Luke 2:25-27

In Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was a good and godly man. He was waiting for God's promise to Israel to come true. The Holy Spirit was with him. The Spirit had told Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. The Spirit led him into the temple courtyard. Then Jesus' parents brought the child in. They came to do for him what the Law required.

December 19th: Luke 2:28-32

Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, "Lord, you are the King over all. Now let me, your servant, go in peace. That is what you promised. My eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the sight of all nations. It is a light to be given to the Gentiles. It will be the glory of your people Israel."