



JOY: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

By: Carlene Lenore Douglas

LEADER:

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and our focus is **JOY**. We live in joyful anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ, remembering that even now in His presence there is fullness of joy. We receive His gift of joy as a reminder that beyond this temporary life which sometimes yields sorrow, there comes a time when, as the prophet Isaiah says, “there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy.” We have the privilege here and now to live a life of joy with dancing and praising and laughing and singing, even as we await the promised eternal joy. Let joy fill our hearts in this season of Advent, as we share it with others and bring them to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.

Three candles are lit.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER:

God of Joy, we bask today in Your splendor and majesty. We humble ourselves before You to draw from your well of joy. Refill those places in our hearts where joy is fading or missing. O loving Father, we repent for those times when we withheld sharing Your joy with the sad, lonely, and depressed. Let Your light shine in them to remove the shadows that darken their spirits. O King who is to come, illuminate us all and restore us with the joy of Your salvation, the JOY that only You can give! *Amen and Amen.*