**Third Sunday of Advent**

Carlene L. Douglas

**(Group of young children):** This is the Third Sunday of Advent. Today our focus is on JOY. Jesus is our joy. Jesus brings us joy.

**Leader:** Rejoice with all your heart for Jesus is our joy! In this season of reflection and repentance we can have joy knowing that Jesus has forgiven us and restored our joy.

**Congregation:** Joy is liberating. Joy sets us free. We will rejoice with gladness, eager for the day of Jesus’ return when we will have perpetual joy.

**Leader:** Today we light the pink candle of joy, signifying our joyful focus on Jesus’ second coming. Let every heart rejoice!

**(Two purple and 1 pink candle are lit)

Congregation:** Joy liberates! Joy gives confidence! God has given us His joy. In this season of Advent let us share joy with the unloved and the outcast, the discriminated and the unwanted, the overlooked and the underserved. We praise you God, for your liberating joy!