



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 coming of Jesus Christ, reminded that even now in God's presence we have fullness of joy. We will live lives of joy, dancing and praising and laughing and singing, even as we await God's promised eternal joy.

FAMILY MEMBER 1: We receive God's gift of joy as a reminder that beyond this temporary life of sorrow and testing, a time will come when, "there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy."

FAMILY MEMBER 2: Today, we ask God to refill those places in our hearts where joy is fading or missing. In this Advent Season, let joy fill our hearts.

- *The family members light two purple candles and the pink candle.*

LEADER: Let us pray together.

God of Joy, we bask today in Your splendor and majesty and draw from Your well of joy. We repent for those times 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. Restore the joy of Your salvation in us, that our deserts will blossom and joy will flow from our lips. Amen and Amen.