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## JOY: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*By: Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield*

**READER ONE:** There is so much sadness and depression of living during this season. Celebrations are overshadowed by the pandemic. Happiness has a backdrop of pain and fear.

**READER TWO:** There are days when it is too much to see families in shelters, children learning from computer screens, and persons with untreated mental health challenges have decreased support.

**READER THREE:** Domestic violence is rampant, employment increasing and our nation is split by politics.

**ALL READERS:** Yet, in the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy for the Lord is come to bring great joy. Be not afraid, true joy is present.