

Week 3 Advent Celebration: Joy

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to our celebration for the third week of Advent. The theme for this third week of Advent is *joy*. The candle for the third week of Advent is pink. Pink is the colour of joy. We are joyful because we are now more than half way through our Advent season of waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

ENTRANCE SONG

Please join us in singing our opening song: (Sugg. Vv. 1&2 of Joy, Joy, Joy by Carey Landry)

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. And let us pray...

God our Father, we thank you for the joy of this third week of Advent. Open our hearts to praise you now with all the angels and saints, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, your Son. We make this prayer to you in his name. Amen.

Candle Lighting and Opening Song

Lighting of Advent Wreath

LEADER:

And now, we will light the third candle of our Advent wreath. The colour of this candle is pink – the colour of joy. It reminds us of the joy we will share in our coming celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas.

An adult lights the two purple candles and pink candle from a single candle.

We light our Advent wreath from a single candle. This candle reminds us of Jesus, who comes to us as Light of the World.

OPTIONAL: SONG

LEADER

(After lighting the three candles) Please join us in singing: (Sugg: Advent Candle Song by ML Walker)

And now, let us listen to God's word.

READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO THE READING**Refrain: *Come, Lord Jesus***

Come Lord Jesus
 King of justice, light of truth, friend of all – both old and youth.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus
 Prince of Peace, make our love for all increase.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus
 Emmanuel. When you are with us, all is well.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus
 God the Son. Warm the hearts of everyone.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus
 Saviour, Lord. May your joy be our reward.
Come, Lord Jesus.

LEADER

Let us listen to the words of St. Paul to the Philippians:

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Philippians
 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
 (Pause)
 The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Please respond to the petitions with:

“Lord, hear our prayer”

1. Let us pray for the Church. That all who follow Jesus will be filled with the joy of his coming. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
2. Let us pray for the world. That all God’s children will reach out to help each other in the joy and love of Jesus. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
3. Let us pray for people who suffer because of war, sickness or lack of love. That God will send them the peace, health and friendship they need. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

4. Let us pray for our parents, grandparents, pastors, and everyone looking after us in our Catholic school. That the joy and hope of Advent will fill their hearts and bring them Christ's peace. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
5. Let us pray for ourselves. That God will open our hearts to welcome Jesus in our neighbour, as we joyfully get ready to celebrate his birth at Christmas. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
6. Let us pray for our own intentions: For all the people and needs that are in our hearts – we bring them before God, our good and loving Father. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

And now, let us unite all our prayers with the prayer of Jesus, using the words he gave us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER

God our Father, we thank you for this time of joyful waiting. May the hope and joy of this season fill our hearts and make us living signs of your love for a world that hungers for your peace. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen. And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

CLOSING SONG

Let us all joyfully join in our closing hymn: (Sugg. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* No. 312 CBW III; *O Come, Divine Messiah* No. 310 CBW III)