

# *Family Advent Liturgy 2017*



# *Third Sunday in Advent*

**Candle:** The pink candle is the Candle of Joy

**Sing:** [“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”](#)

**Reader:** Here we are again to light another candle on this third Sunday in Advent! Let’s review our first two candles.

**Child:** (Relight first candle) On the first Sunday we lit a candle to remind us to get our hearts ready for the coming of Jesus.

**Child:** (Relight second candle) On the second Sunday we lit the candle of love that reminds us that Jesus is the Way.

**Reader:** When we open our hearts and let the love of Jesus enter, we know joy! God enjoys us and we can enjoy God too! Today’s candle is for joy.

**Reader:** Some people who knew the joy right away were the shepherds. After visiting the stable, they went back to their sheep, glorifying and praising God. But a lot of people living in Bethlehem missed it.

They slept right through the whole thing and never knew it happened.

**Child:** (Light the third candle) I light the candle on the third Sunday in Advent to remind us that the angels said, “We have news of great joy!”

## **Scripture Reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28 (ERV)**

### **John 1:6-8 (ERV)**

**6** There was a man named John, who was sent by God.  
**7** He came to tell people about the light. Through him all people could hear about the light and believe. **8** John was not the light. But he came to tell people about the light.

### **John 1:19-28 (ERV)**

#### *John Tells About the Messiah*

**19** The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, “Who are you?” He told them the truth. **20** Without any hesitation he said openly and plainly, “I am not the Messiah.”

**21** They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He answered, “No, I am not Elijah.”

They asked, “Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, “No, I am not the Prophet.”

**22** Then they said, “Who are you? Tell us about yourself. Give us an answer to tell the people who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

**23** John told them the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert:  
‘Make a straight road ready for the Lord.’”

**24** These Jews were sent from the Pharisees. **25** They said to John, “You say you are not the Messiah. You say you are not Elijah or the Prophet. Then why do you baptize people?”

**26** John answered, “I baptize people with water. But there is someone here with you that you don’t know.

**27** He is the one who is coming later. I am not good enough to be the slave who unties the strings on his sandals.”

**28** These things all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan River. This is where John was baptizing people.

*Read Scripture the first time, then ask:*  
**What word or sentence stands out to you?**  
(allow responses)

*Read Scripture a second time, then ask:*  
**What do you hear Jesus/God saying to you in this story?** (allow responses)

*Read Scripture a third time, then ask:*  
**What do you think the Holy Spirit is asking you/us to do in this story?** (allow responses)

**Prayer time:** Thank God for all the things that make you joy-filled. Ask God to show you the things that He sends to bring us joy. “Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!” (Psalm 144:15).

