



JOY: The third Sunday of Advent – December 12, 2021

Light two purple candles and one pink candle today

ADVENT LITANY

Leader: Why light a candle that will burn out?

People: The message of this candle cannot be quenched. It speaks of joy: joy deep as the human soul; joy profound as the truth of salvation; joy rich as the promises of God.

Leader: It represents the advent joy of the heavenly host, heralding the newborn King, the Messiah.

People: We light this candle in faith.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

All: Prepare the way of the Lord, the Light of the World.

Suggested Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (#2 in The Presbyterian Hymnal)

The Gospel reading for December 12, 2021:

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" ¹³ "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." ¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with^[a] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Prayer for the Third Sunday in Advent:

Do not let joy escape us, Lord. Content with happiness as long as things go our way, we may forget that joy is central to our witness. Let the wonder of Your salvation settle deep within us making compassion our motivation for service. In the Name of Christ, we pray. Amen.