

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my **joy** may be in you and that your **joy** may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:9-12)*

The third week of Advent is JOY.

People try to find happiness in a lot of different things in this world. But no matter how hard we try to be happy in temporary things, that happiness can never last. Because the world and everyone in it are broken by sin. But God sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to give us joy that never ends. The joy that Jesus brings comes from the power of his Holy Spirit who lives in everyone who trusts Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Only Jesus can take away our sins and make us right with God. Knowing we are forgiven and saved forever should cause us great joy. Many people live in sorrow and sadness because they don't know Jesus. Their only happiness comes from things or circumstances that cannot last. Jesus wants our joy to be full and complete. This doesn't mean we will always be happy and never have trouble. But it does mean our joy of knowing we are saved and loved by God can't be changed. We can trust him in all our troubles. This should cause us to REJOICE always.

Family Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the joy of knowing Jesus Christ, your Son. And thank you for giving us your joy. Let us remember to REJOICE and be thankful for every good gift you give us. Let us rejoice this Christmas season for Jesus. Even in times when we feel down. Lord, let us know your joy by obeying and loving you, and each other. In Jesus' name. Amen.