

Thursday, December 15th, Day 19 – Becky Burroughs

Welcome – Hello, and welcome to Vespers for the Advent season. My name is Becky Burroughs, and today is the 19th day of Advent, Thursday, December 15th.

Centering – As we begin our time of reflection and devotion, let's take a moment to center ourselves.

Make sure other distractions are quieted for the next few minutes.

If possible, bring your body to complete rest.

As you become aware of the stillness around you, focus on your breathing as we inhale and exhale slowly together.

Breathe in, exhale.

Breathe in, exhale.

Breathe in, exhale.

Responsive Prayer – As we continue in prayer together, speak the words of this responsive prayer.

LEADER – God of love

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your steadfastness

LEADER – Christ of hope

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your promises

LEADER – Spirit of peace

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your comfort

LEADER – As it was from the beginning,

RESPONSE – So now, may the joy of this season burn in our hearts

TOGETHER – Amen

Lectio Divina – For the next few moments, let's dwell in God's Word.

Our reading today comes from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1.

I will read the passage through 3 times - each time with a different way for you to experience the scripture.

1st Reading

Hear the Word of God

Read Passage

After 1st Reading Prompt

As we read through the 2nd time, take notice of what word or phrase stands out to you and hold onto it. If you would like to write your reflections down or tell someone else your findings, feel free to pause the video after this 2nd reading.

Read Passage

After 2nd Reading Prompt

If a word or phrase caught your attention, what, if anything, do you sense God saying to you about the JOY that Advent brings? Listen for that invitation during this final reading. If you would like to write your reflections down or tell someone else your findings, feel free to pause the video after this 3rd reading.

Read Passage

After 3rd Reading Prompt

As we conclude this time of reading together, let me offer this question as a challenge to be aware of as you go about your Advent season:

Question – Have you ever found reason for joy, even during challenging circumstances? Like Mary, what brings you great JOY this Advent season?

Reading – Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to
generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the
lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Benediction – Thank you for spending time with us today. As you continue this week, may the JOY of the Advent resound in every part of your life. If you will, speak these words with me as we conclude:

ALL – Lord of hosts,
Who breathed the words of creation and
spoke the Word of the Incarnation
Ignite our imaginations
Fill us with awe and wonder
Prepare the way for the Messiah, within and without
For unto us, a Child is born
Unto us, Emmanuel is given
Bring us Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace
As we receive, once again, Your greatest gift to the world
Amen, and amen

_____ – Join us every day of Advent for a time of reflection and devotion.
May God go with you through this season of JOY.
Blessings, dearly beloved.