

## **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Day 16 – Annette Sharp**

**Welcome** – Hello, and welcome to Vespers for the Advent season. My name is Annette Sharp, and today is the 16<sup>th</sup> day of Advent, Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**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 67<sup>th</sup> Psalm.

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

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Hear the Word of God

Read Passage

### **After 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Prompt**

As we read through the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Read Passage

### **After 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

Read Passage

### **After 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – Why should the nations rejoice that God guides and judges the world equally? How is the JOY of Advent displayed in this way?

### **Reading – Psalm 67**

- 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah
- 2 that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.
- 7 May God continue to bless us;

let all the ends of the earth revere him.

**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.