

Tuesday, December 13th, Day 17 – Eddie Sharp

Welcome – Hello, and welcome to Vespers for the Advent season. My name is Eddie Sharp, and today is the 17th day of Advent, Tuesday, December 13th.

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 prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9.

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 – What event has ignited the joy of those mentioned in the story?
How might the JOY of Advent increase your own JOY in a similar way?

Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4 For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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.