

Advent 3

Hope - Love - Joy - Peace



Today's First Scripture Reading:

Philippians 4:4-5 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

Today's Second Scripture Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

^{18a} I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival...

Lighting the candles with a prayer of blessing:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation You have made manifest Your love; when our need of a Savior was great, You sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon these candles, may they remind us of our hope in Jesus who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

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"Rejoice, the LORD is near."



In Anticipation of Advent, we Rejoice: Why?

BECAUSE...

I. Messiah brings Just-Mercy (Zephaniah 3:1-18a)

II. And Messiah brings an Inner-Quality of Life (Eph. 4:4-5)

III. How do you attain this Inner-Quality Life?