

Advent Wreath Lighting (3rd Sunday in Advent)

Deacon: Jimmy Diggs

Deacon: Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Congregation: How does this happen?

Deacon: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

All: "Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us. Let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Deacon: A reading from the prophet Zephaniah: "In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." **(Zephaniah 3:16-17).**

Congregation: We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Last Sunday, we began in the dark, and then we lit two candles. Today, on the third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles of **HOPE, PEACE, and JOY.**

First, second, and third candles are lit. (PINK and 2 PURPLES)

Deacon: Every week in Advent, we light another candle. Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of the baby Jesus, the Messiah who will show us the way back to God.

All: The Messiah is on the way to us. As we prepare for his coming, may we repent of our sins. May we remember our baptisms with water. May we be ready to be baptized with God's Holy Spirit and fire. May we be ready to help our Lord proclaim the good news of God's love to all people so that the world will be filled with joy. Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A CALLED BUSINESS MEETING will be held December 14th at 6:30pm. Items on the agenda are:

1. Vote on recommendation from the Personnel Committee regarding the Children and Youth Coordinator position.
2. Vote on recommendation from the Nominating Committee for church workers in 2017.
3. Vote on recommendation from the Stewardship Committee for the 2017 church budget.

THE G.U.E.S.T. SHELTER has opened for the season. Please make note of the phone numbers and share with those that may need them. Day shelter: 804-654-9778 Night shelter: 804-654-9781.

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