

3rd Sunday in Advent

Debra Wood: 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.

ALL: How does this happen?

Debra Wood: 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."

Debra Wood: 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**).

ALL: 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.

Deacon Family Member Lessie Ferber (Lighting of the Candles)
(Lighting 1 Pink Candle AND 2 Purple Candles) ...

Debra Wood: 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.

Future Opportunities

12/20/20	11:00 am	Christmas Cantata/Baptism/3rd & 4th Advent Wreath Lighting
12/21/20	6:30 pm	American Heritage Girls
12/24/20		Christmas Eve Service Online Only Office Closed
12/25/20		Jesus is Born!!!! Merry Christmas!! Office Closed
12/27/20	11:00 am	Sandy McElfresh speaking
1/1/2021		Happy New Year!! Office Closed

Announcements

- 1) If you would like to place a dove on the tree in memory of or in honor of a loved one, there is still time. The **deadline** for the **Christmas Doves** has been extended to **December 30, 2020**. Donations are a minimum of \$5.00, but more will gladly be accepted and will go to support the Benevolence Fund.
- 2) **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** : Christmas is this week and at this time of year we are called to pray for our missionaries and support them with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This year our goal is **\$2,500.00**.
- 3) **GPBC Advent Books** are ready for pick-up in the Narthex. Please take **one copy per family**. We want to thank all of our members who wrote devotions this year! Thank you Lynn Walton and Leslie & Keith Belvin.
- 4) **Children's Church** will begin **TODAY**.
- 5) **Congratulations** to **James & Brittany DeRosa** and **Elaine Owens** on your baptism.

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