

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.

Debra Wood & Congregation (*Unison*): How does this happen?

Stewart 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.

Stewart Wood & Congregation (*Unison*): "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**).

Debra Wood & Congregation (*Unison*): 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 Members Gordon & Alice Smith
(Lighting 1 Pink Candle AND 2 Purple Candles) ...**

Gordon & Alice Smith: 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.

Stewart Wood & Congregation (*Unison*): 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.

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