

DECEMBER 11, 2022  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

*God is active in the world, filling us with joy.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Isaiah 35:1-10	The return to Zion
Tuesday	James 5:7-10	Patience in suffering
Wednesday	3 John 1:1-8	Gaius commended for his hospitality
Thursday	Nehemiah 8:9-12	Ezra reads God's law
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalm 146:5-10	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For the waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, your work of love and mercy never ends. Help us to live with joy in our hearts through Christ Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this gift of food and for all your goodness that never ends, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus to us and to all the world. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with joy each and every day.



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## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Joy to the World*



## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you really hope for?
- Where or through whom have you seen God's will active in the world?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read: Psalm 146:5-10.*

Advent is a season of hope and anticipation that may seem beyond what is real. What makes Advent real and not just a pipe dream is that we have a God who is active in the world. God has always been this way and always will be this way. This is the God of Jacob for whom God made an entire nation, Israel. This is the God who created all that is and continues to create. This is the God who gives sight to the blind, who lifts up those bowed down, and who watches over the stranger, the orphan, and the widow for all generations—past, present, and future. This is the God who is with us now through Jesus, the one who gives sight to the blind, heals the lame and the deaf, raises the dead, and brings good news to the poor (Matthew 11:5). This is the God who continues to make new things happen every day. The followers of Jesus are those who witness God's activity and give witness to what they see and hear, the witness that even death is not a defeat because we have the God who reigns forever.

*Discuss: How have you witnessed God's amazing goodness, protection, and love?*

*Pray: Almighty God, your greatness exceeds all we can imagine. Help us to trust in your goodness and mercy that renews us and the earth each day through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others find joy and live each day with hope in God?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ. For this third week of Advent, light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, and the third candle of joy on the Advent wreath (Some use a rose-colored candle for the third Sunday as it is the symbolic color for joy). This week, we focus on the joy that God brings into our lives through Jesus.

*Say: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, and joy.*