



Advent Meditation: Week 3

The Geography of Waiting

Let Joy find me. Let Joy find you. Let Joy find us.

“The question is not, ‘How am I to love God,’ but ‘How am I to let myself be loved by God?’” Henri Nouwen

Invocation

God of Joy and Light, as Santa Lucia brought her small light into the darkness and as candles and lights adorn our houses, come close and bring the great Light of your Joy into our hearts.

Come to us. Find us. Be with us. We ask for your blessing on this time. Fill us with joy in the closeness of you.

Confession

Lord, you know us. As the great feast of your incarnation comes closer, we crowd out joy with busyness and crankiness and a to-do list that weighs us down. This week, Lord, slow us down. Give us eyes to see the wonders of bare tree branches on a gray sky – like fine embroidery on silk. Give us ears to hear children laughing – and to giggle along with them. Help us to make the time to appreciate the joyful feeling of having done a kindness for a stranger. Let us share in the joy with all Christians everywhere who know you are near.

Isaiah 12:4b-6

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, o royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3:15-16

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Prayer

Leader: Creator God, we are groping in the dark. We pray that you will fill us to the brim and overflowing with the light of lovingkindness for all of your creation.

People: Joy come find us.

Leader: Christ we pray that you will light a fire of ecstatic warmth in our hearts so we embrace all people everywhere as our brothers and sisters.

People: Joy come find us.

Leader: Holy Spirit, we pray for your lightning bolt of energy. We throw back our heads and spread out our arms and laugh at the very joy of being alive.

People: Joy come find us.

Leader: Give us joy so that we can shine a light on the Good News of God's love and share it with all the earth.

People: Joy come find us.

A time to be still

You are invited into a time of inner stillness.

Breathe deeply.

Sit with the image of Joy as you fill it with color.

Let Joy find you.

A blessing

May God bless us with grouchy people so we can smile and be God's joy in the world.

May God bless us with long lines to wait in so we can feel the joy of air in our lungs.

May God bless us with adversaries so we can joyously give service to them.

May God put a dance in our steps and a song in our hearts as we share God's light in a dark world.

