

ADVENT:

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY



The third Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of JOY. On the night Jesus was born, the angels announced God's gift of joy for everyone:

And the angel said to them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great JOY that will be for all the people. (Luke 2:10)

What was this "good news of great joy?" Read Luke 2:11-20. Then read Matthew 1:23. When Jesus was born, God came to earth to be with us. What an amazing thought! God on earth with the people he loves. The name Immanuel means, "God with us." What do you think it would have been like to witness and see God coming to earth as a baby the night Jesus was born?

The joy God wants you to have comes from faith in Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of the World. Joy isn't the same as being happy. What do you think is the difference between joy and being happy?

God tells us we can have joy all the time when we have Jesus and the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Even when you're sad or upset about something, God wants you to remember He has given you joy that isn't only for when you are happy or just when things are going well. Because God is with you all of the time, you can remember you have joy.

Joy is an expression of God's love. Ask God to show you someone this week with whom you can share the joy you have in your heart. Write a note to them, call them and pray for them, or spend time with someone who may need to be reminded that God is with them.