

The Third Sunday of Advent

Reader: The Redeemer shall come (Is. 59:20).

All: A Light to lighten a world in darkness

Reader: This week we light the candle that symbolizes **rejoicing**.

*The designated person lights the three candles. The pink candle symbolizes **rejoicing**.*

Reader: Rejoice! It is Jesus who is coming soon, radiating unbridled love for us. He makes the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed, the dead receive life, the poor are blessed. And when we practice faith in our everyday actions, when we courageously follow Jesus, we too are blessed. The shape of our experience is transformed because we come to know intimately the compassionate love of Jesus. Our anxiety, fear and loneliness are changed to a new perspective of peace, hope and communion.

We light three candles: the first rouses us to watch for the light that comes quickly to vanish the darkness; the second summons us to repent and prepare for Christ; the third reassures us that we are loved and are healed by that love. Rejoice! Make ready for the God who passionately loves us by loving what God loves: mercy, kindness and justice. This love brings joy.

Prayer for others promotes the fullness of Christ's reign. Pray intentionally for people close by and far away, for those in the Church and for those who have no faith, for those who suffer, for those who are in trouble, and for those who have no one to pray for them. Pray for the most unlovable of all: those who have wronged you. Reach out to others across the miles, with different points of view and from the various social strata by praying for them. You will make a new place for Christ in your heart.

Reader: Let us pray. God our light, quiet our minds that we may watch for you; expose our sins that we may repent and prepare for you; reveal your love that we may rejoice in serving you; make our lamps shine and proclaim to the world that darkness is ended; that there is Light for those who seek it and love for all people. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Jesus is the Light of the world.

All: Come and save us God of light!

The Service continues with the Eucharist on page 101 BCP.

(Adapted from Teach us to number our Days, Barbara Dee Baumgarten, 1999)