

# Advent Wreath Lighting

Adapted from Material by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

*Leader*.....*Rev, Robin Woodberry*

*Celebrant:* Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.



### *Lighting of 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle*



*Leader:* “You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” *(Isaiah 55:12)*

*Leader:* 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. *(Luke 3:15-16)*

### *Explanation of Advent* *(reverse side)*

### *Congregational Prayer*

Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh, and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

*To close each Advent Service, we will sing a chorus of*  
**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (H 56) Verse 3**

# Advent ANTICIPATION AND HOPE Preparation for Jesus’ Birth

The word **ADVENT** comes from the Latin for “arrival” or “coming”. Jesus came into the world in human form in a lowly stable in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago.

**ADVENT** takes place during the four weeks preceding Jesus’ birth. It is a time of preparation, hope, and waiting for the miracle of Christmas. This year it begins on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, then continues on Sundays December 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> until December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup>. A spirit of expectation, anticipation, and preparation marks Advent. We anticipate and look forward to the coming of Christ and prepare ourselves by reading the Word, praying, and by looking into ourselves for ways to make us worthy of His presence.

Each Sunday in our church we look forward to the “Latter Day” with emphasis on “**What we know**”. At home and in our hearts, let’s put aside some time each day to remember what Christmas is about -- JESUS!!!

