



The Advent Wreath
A Liturgy for Lighting the Third Candle: Joy
DaySpring Baptist Church

Greeting (Recite Howard Thurman's poem together or each person take a turn reading a line.)

I Will Light Candles This Christmas

**Candles of joy, despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that burn all the year long.**

Scripture

A reading of Mary's Magnificat from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1:46-55:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
According to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Lighting the First and Second Purple Candles and the Pink Candle

**May the Hope of Christ shine in our hearts.
May the Faith of Christ shine in our hearts.
May the Joy of Christ shine in our hearts.**

Prayer

O Great Giver of Joy,
You who made heaven and Earth,
The sea and all that is in it.

My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Creator.

You make the desert bloom and turn dry land into pools of water.
You give food to the hungry and set prisoners free.

My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Sustainer.

You open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf.
You make the lame leap like a deer, and the tongues of the mute shout for joy.

My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Teach us to wait for your joy.
May our spirits rejoice in you all the days of our lives.
Amen.

Family storytelling is a wonderful way for children to find themselves in the story of God. Below are dinnertime conversation prompts that intersect with the Godly Play stories the 3-year-olds through 4th graders are hearing and the adult formation class:

1. How do prophets listen to God so that they could point the way to Bethlehem? How do we listen to one another?
2. Who has been a prophet in our family or in our church who points the way to racial reconciliation?
3. Mary and Joseph made a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What long journeys have we taken as a family and how did we prepare? When has anyone in our family been brave on a journey?
4. How do our conversations at DaySpring about race intersect with our family's journey?
5. Whom do we know of a different race from us and what family traditions have we learned from them?
6. This morning you heard about the shepherds coming to Bethlehem to see Jesus. I remember who came to see you when you were born...
7. I remember rejoicing when...
8. This year has been hard for a lot of people and for us. Let's remember how it's been hard for others and for us and praise God for the ways God has relieved suffering.

[Benefits of Family Story Telling](#)