

# ADVENT: READINGS & PRAYERS

## Week 3 of Advent: Joy



[Re-light the first two candles.]

### READING

Today we remember the meaning of Advent. Advent is a word that means “coming.” In the Christian season of Advent, we prepare for the “advent” of Christ at Christmas. Our preparation includes remembering. We remember Israel’s hope for the coming of God’s Messiah to save, forgive, and restore. We remember we are in darkness and exile, in need of a Savior. We remember our hope for the second coming of Jesus. By lighting one candle each week of Advent, we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ into our world and hearts. Today we focus on joy, because we know how the story ends!

### PRAYER

God, thank you for this season of Advent that helps us prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. As we read your Word and light a candle, may excitement for Christ’s coming burn in our hearts. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

[As someone lights the third candle, the following should be read or paraphrased.]

We light this candle because we know that God has come in Christ and that Christ will come again. We rejoice in God’s work in history and in the future.

### PRAYER

God, as we light this candle, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus the Messiah. And we know that he will come again in glory. So even though the story isn’t over, we rejoice in our hope. We wait for you, rejoicing! Amen!

### CLOSING SONG

[To be sung to the tune of “O come let us adore him” from “O Come All Ye Faithful.”]

We wait for you, rejoicing,  
We wait for you, rejoicing,  
We wait for you, rejoicing,  
Christ the Lord!