

**Advent Puzzle Project**  
**12/13/2020 – The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**JOY**

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. As we move through the calendar year, the church has divided the year into “festival” time and “ordinary time.” In festival time we remember the life of Jesus. In ordinary time we consider what Jesus taught about how to live our lives with each other.

In Advent, we are remembering the time before Jesus came to earth, when the world was waiting for the Savior that had been promised to Adam and Eve. Despite the pain and violence and wielding of power in harmful ways in this imperfect world, Advent is a time when we realize that all along God has made joy available to us regardless of circumstances.

This joy is not simple happiness that depends on the circumstances, but something fuller that wells up. This joy is because regardless of the circumstances God loves us and will not let us down. It is the joy even when the world around is despairing, joy that lets us see the gifts of COVID as well as the horrors and the pain. This joy comes from knowing that no matter what, in the end God continues to love use, care for us, and will someday bring about a new wholeness for all of creation. It is the joy of knowing that in the Resurrection, we are redeemed and freed to live life fully.

This year for Advent we invite you to puzzle through with us. Each week we will add another piece to the puzzle until we find, on Christmas, the announcement of the hope that we consider this week.

Decorate the puzzle piece on the next page with your image of that kind of peace – the peace of wholeness. Use colors or construction paper, feathers or small rocks or sticks. Make it your piece of hope. For best results, cut out the piece on the outside of the outline to finish your piece of the puzzle.

When you have finished, take a picture of your decorated puzzle piece and sent it to us at [southdurhamconnections@gmail.com](mailto:southdurhamconnections@gmail.com). We will put them up on our website each week so that those who visit the website will see all the different ways that our community envisions hope.

You will get a reply email when your picture is posted with the website address and how you can see your picture and that of others who are participating in the community Advent Puzzle Project.

Now... on to building the joy part of our puzzle:

**JOY**

