

COSSO SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A DEVOTION FOR WEEK 3 OF ADVENT: JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare to welcome God!

A distant star glitters in the sky: COME, JESUS, COME.

A bright beacon lights up the way: COME, JESUS, COME.

The beauty of the Son brightens a gloomy day: COME, JESUS, COME.

OPENING PRAYER TO ADVENT

Bright God of Advent, come into our lives. Light up our way and rekindle in us your desire for justice and peace, that we may scatter the ashes that keep us from embracing your joy. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: Linking us together

Advent candle lighting is traditional in the church but not often used in the home. During these Covid Times, this tradition may help us feel connected to our faith and to each other. Candles may be separate or in an Advent wreath.

(Adapted from a series in the Christian Reformed Church, www.reformedworship.org).

Reflection for Greeting Advent with Joy

We light the third Advent candle, the candle of joy, as we look to the coming of Jesus, who is our joy now and forever. In the gospel of Luke, the angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord." Jesus' birth brings great joy. (Luke 2:10+)

Prayer: Dear God, bring joy into our hearts, now and forever, and help us to tell others about this joy. Amen.

Pause: Spend a few moments reflecting on the joy of knowing that you belong to God. You may remember your call story, or think of being raised in the church and when you claimed your faith as your own.

For more devotional time: Read Acts 8:26-40, the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. Recall the time when you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior or a time when you experienced great joy.

Additional Readings: Acts 9:1-19; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Luke 1:1-25

SONG **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** by Anna Hawkins
<https://youtu.be/MD-jBLZSZNU>

GOING FORTH

During this time of Advent,
may you expect God to come into your life.
And while you wait,
may the spirit move within you, fill you with God's joy,
and strengthen your faith with peace and love.