**The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy**

Watch and wait for Christ’s coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,

remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light the first candle in hope.

We light the second candle in peace.

We light the third candle in joy.

Light the first candle.

Light the second candle.

Light the third (PINK) candle.

Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression’s exile to lead us home, as we hear in Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

 and rejoice with joy and singing.

 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

 They shall see the glory of the LORD,

 the majesty of our God.

Let us pray.

 O Lord, our redeemer, you lead us from sorrow’s shadows

into laughter’s joy over your abundant restoration.

 Thank you that you are coming for us to lead us home

 along your Way, Jesus Christ. Amen.