

## Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

### Family:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,  
and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars.  
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.  
By these stars, they knew God was with them.

### People:

Today we light three candles to bring the fire of the stars  
down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

### Family:

**We name this candle Hope.** (*light the first candle*)

**We name this candle Peace.** (*light the second candle*)

**We name this candle Joy.** (*light the third candle*)

### People:

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way.  
But we chart our path by the star of joy.  
Even when despair is all around us  
and apathy seems the order of the day,  
we set our face steadily towards the light.

### Family:

Listen now to the prophecy of Isaiah:  
“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion —  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit” (Isaiah 61:1-3).

### ALL:

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of joy this week,  
help us to *become* the signs of joy that others are searching for.  
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,  
help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s joy. Amen.**