

Advent Week Three - JOY

The Joy of the Gift given Then and Now

Luke 2:16-19 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. 17 When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. 18 All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. 19 Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. 20 The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

What is joy? **Sharing God's Love** - John 15 - "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you."

Who helps us look for joy? ANGELS - GOD'S MESSENGERS - Those who see and share God's Love.

When is joy found? - When we seek and find and share God's Love.

What will we seek? - We must not stop before we get to the manger, the cross, the empty tomb and the sacred place where Christ's Spirit fills us with Pure Love.

Reading: Glenn and Ann Harris

One: When a baby is born there is great joy. When God is discovered by seeking souls there is great joy. The birth of Jesus Christ brings great joy for both reasons.

Two: Let us remember the baby born in the season of Advent, the child who caused the shepherds to praise God. Their praise was because they believed the Good News told to them by the angels. This baby would bring great joy to all the people.

One: There in Bethlehem the Christ they had longed for was born. They were NOT going to miss out on the arrival of the Christ. They were going to share in this great joy and then become the heralds of the great joy.

Two: Let us remember the shepherds who were going about their work when they were given the Good News. Let us look and listen for the Good News of God's Love. Let us be open to the reminders that Christ is being born in our lives during this Advent season.

One: The shepherds went to the manger and saw the baby. This new life was beginning and the joy of God's great Love began to be discovered by those who believed the Good News of great joy found in Christ.

Two: Let us remember the great joy, enter the great joy and share the great joy of God's Love we have in Jesus Christ.