



DECEMBER 13, 2015
**THIRD SUNDAY
 OF ADVENT**



ZEPHANIAH 3:14–18A

ISAIAH 12:2–3, 4, 5–6

PHILIPPIANS 4:4–7

LUKE 3:18–18

REFLECTION

For the Advent journey we began focussing on the future. We heard about possible fears and anxieties, were led into a conversation about friends and support systems, and received the example of Mary’s “yes” into our hearts to become more holy and open to her son’s love. This week the word “joy” or “rejoice” is found in every reading but the Gospel. What a great pause as we prepare for new life! Whatever you are facing at this moment in your life, hear the words spoken specifically to you.

Dear (say your name!):

Shout for joy! If you think the Lord is judging you for your mistakes, think again. The Lord has removed all judgement against you. Be not discouraged; the Lord, your God, is watching over with gladness and renewing you in his love. This love is so great and powerful that I write to you with confidence and without fear, that your kindness—the amazing goodness of your heart and soul—will be known and shared with all. Therefore, be open. Have no anxiety about anything, but in prayer, let God know what you need. His peace guards your heart and mind, and holds you close to his heart through his Son, Christ Jesus.

From,

Someone who believes in you!

—Letter based on Zephaniah 3:14–18a

ACTION

It is good to feel joy. This week consider learning about the joyful mysteries of the Rosary. Pondering on the amazing events of Jesus’ life can help us look at the joyful events in our life. As was written to you above, read the Scripture passages for today and see if you can hear the words written specifically to you. Each verse becomes a love letter for you. God knows the times we need special encouragement. Let God find you this week!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist said he was not worthy to loosen the sandal straps of the one to come. Before we receive Eucharist each week, we say “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.” How do you feel each week saying this and how does it prepare you to receive the strength and joy of the Eucharist?