

12-11-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Let us claim the gift of joy, even in the struggles of a difficult world, even as we pray for those who are hurting, who are grieving, who are lost and alone. We celebrate; we are joyful because our God has promised healing and wholeness.”

- Derek Weber



Isaiah 35:1-10 ✝ Luke 1:47-55

Questions for Reflection —

- What do you see as the difference between happiness and joy? Where/how have you witnessed or experienced joy during this Advent season? What struggles or challenges make it more difficult for you to experience joy? What does joy look and feel like in the midst of challenging circumstances? What do you need in order to claim God’s gift of joy independent of circumstances? What does it look like for you to rejoice and glorify God from the depth of your being, with your whole self?

- Read Mary’s Song (Magnificat) in Luke 1:47-55. What would it mean to sing/pray the words of the Magnificat in solidarity with Mary? Who are the oppressed, marginalized, and overlooked in our world today? What people or groups of people need to be uplifted? What situations cry out for justice? How can you be an instrument of God’s liberation and joy for someone who is suffering or oppressed? How can our congregation through our programs and ministries serve as an instrument of God’s liberation and joy for people facing the racial discrimination, economic oppression, and identity exclusion which pervade our society?

- What has your Advent journey been like so far? What does it mean for you to walk the Holy Way in this season? For what are you now waiting and watching in the final weeks before Christmas? For what new possibilities are you preparing room? Where do you see need for healing, wholeness, and restoration in your life? In our congregation? In the world? What is needed for those visions to move closer to reality?

Daily Household Prayer

O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald’s urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ. We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.