

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we move still deeper into the season. This is the third Sunday of Advent.

In many traditions the theme of this Sunday is *joy*, remembering Mary's joy at being chosen to bear the Messiah.

Mary marveled that a humble, rustic girl like herself should be God's choice for such an important task. She seemed so **ordinary**, and yet....

Mary's life reminds us that God doesn't see as we see; God looks at our hearts. It reminds us that God can be at work where and when we least expect it – even in our own lives. And it reminds us that this world and everyone in it, even the most **ordinary** people, are very important to God.

Let's re-light the first candle, which stands for the **HOPE** God gives us in Christ.

### [LIGHT ONE PURPLE CANDLE]

And the second candle, which stands for the **PEACE** Christ brings.

### [LIGHT ANOTHER PURPLE CANDLE]

And now the third candle, which stands for **JOY**.

### [LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE]

It certainly does give us joy to think that God wants to do his work even in our very lives.

Let's pray together. Dear God, today at this Advent wreath we remember Mary's joy at your choice of her and your life in her. We're *humbled* to think that you want to live in us and work through us, too. But we *rejoice* that you do! Help us submit to your will, as Mary did, and be your true servants to others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.