

WEEKLY SERMON

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The Third Sunday of Advent

It is the Third Sunday of Advent this weekend ... and how soon it comes round for all of us!

We can picture the lighting of the Advent candles and joy, signifying the welcoming of Mary's new son, Jesus. The joy his arrival unleashes; brightening our winter as sunshine on snow.

This joy contrasts with all the suffering around the world at this moment through illness, war, loss, and displacement.

Joy is a God given word, and as hard as it may be to take on board at this moment; God still wants us to imagine and experience it.

As the candle of joy is lit this Sunday and we listen to the words of Zephaniah 3 within 'A song of Joy', we should allow God to open up to us a moment to embrace it for what it ushers in.

Jesus, the new born, the wonder of God with us.

Our God continues to remind us that no matter what is going on in our lives or around us, joy, one of our main spiritual nutrients, should be instilled within ourselves through Jesus Christ Himself.

As we come together as a Church body, we also focus our thoughts on our much-loved Mosamaria AIDS Ministry in South Africa (www.mosamaria.co.za) this Christmas time.

We are reminded of just how much they embrace the word joy and how much it is shown through all attached to this ministry. Be it the children and families with their smiles to those that work tirelessly to make these people's lives better.

As a Body of Christ, we continue to pray and make time to give via Bishop Julian's Harvest Appeal 2021. You can give something towards the appeal [by clicking here](#).

Let joy continue to provide succour as we remember the Lord, your God, is in our midst; a warrior who gives victory. He will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Amen.

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Blackburn Diocese Mosamaria Trust Fund Trustee**

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