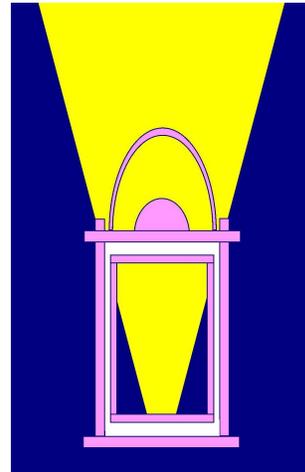


Advent 2016 Worship Resources: *Lighting the Way...*

Third Sunday of Advent, 11 December 2016

Lighting the Way to... Unrevealed Joy

Suggested Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-10 &
Matthew 11:2-11



Advent Wreath Lighting Litany:

joy, it seems, is unrevealed.

wilderness gladness
desert blossoms
abundant joy and singing –
this all seems elusive.

be strong, says the Voice
in the wild. DO NOT FEAR.
the way before you is holy
and is opening now.

come, Christ, come.

you are the one –
opening eyes
moving limbs
cleaning sores
unstopping ears
raising death
giving life.

make what is unrevealed,
known.

as we light this candle for joy,
light our way.

Communion Prayers:

"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is *our* God."

Rejoice!

God of our salvation,
You give us strength when we are weak
and comfort when we are frightened.

You fill our hearts with joy and gladness.

With thanksgiving, we join all the ransomed of the Lord
to sing your praises.

Holy One, we pray your blessing on this moment, on the meal we are about
to receive. Let us know your comforting presence. Let us feel your joy-giving
Spirit. Amen.

We rejoice, Lord, at the presence of your Spirit in this moment. May it light
the way to reveal your joy for all who seek it. Amen.

Advent Prayer:

O come Immanuel, God-with-us, God-in-us, unrevealed Joy.
The story is unfolding amid us, fragile as a child, humble as a manger.
The power of your fragility, the strength of your humbleness
are transforming forever the violence of this world,
and then you call us to be your prophets,
prophets of your Joy. Amen.

En Español:

Oh, ven Emmanuel, Dios con nosotros, Dios en nosotros, alegría por revelar.
La historia se desarrolla en medio de nosotros, frágil como una niña,
humilde como un pesebre. La potencia de tu fragilidad, la fuerza de tu
humildad está transformando para siempre la violencia de este mundo y en
ese preciso instante nos llamas a ser profetas de tu alegría.