

Children's liturgy – Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Preparing for worship

Colour: purple

Props: Advent wreath

Song suggestions: O come o come Emmanuel (112, Laudate)
Come to set us free (81, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear John the Baptist preparing people for the coming of Jesus. The people were very excited. John told them they had to change their lives for the better and share what they had with others. Let's think a bit more about that today.

Opening prayer: Generous God, we give you thanks for all the good things that you have given us. Inspire us to share what we have so all people may live a full and happy life. Amen.

First reading (optional): Zephaniah 3:14-18

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6 r. 6

Gospel acclamation: *Everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

The people asked [John the Baptist], "What are we to do, then?"

He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it."

Some tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what are we to do?"

"Don't collect more than is legal," he told them.

Some soldiers also asked him, "What about us? What are we to do?"

He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay."

People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He has his winnowing shovel with him, to thresh out all the grain and gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and urged them to change their ways.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading today?

The people ask John the Baptist what they should be doing to prepare for the coming of Christ. What did John say to them?

John says that anyone who has two shirts should share with the person who has none. And he says that anyone who has something to eat must do the same.

Are you always good at sharing? Can you tell me about a time when you didn't have something you needed or wanted and someone else shared with you? How did you feel when they shared with you?

When you share your toys or sweets with someone how does it make you feel?

Does it make you feel happy? Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means joy. So let's think today a bit about what makes us happy and joyful.

Can you all tell me one thing that makes you happy?

There are some things in the world that all people need to live happy and healthy lives. Can you name some of these things?

We all need food, water, and somewhere safe to live. But some of us in this country and in countries around the world struggle to get enough food, to get clean water to drink, to go to school, to get medicine or to have a safe place to live.

We also all need people to share our worries with, and who are willing to share their time with us to help us. We all need people who love us and care for us.

What could you do this week to share and spread some joy in our world? Especially how could you share joy with someone who is lonely, poor or who needs some help either locally or around the world?

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

All that we have is given to us by God and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a shining example of joy and God's love, welcoming everyone and spreading the message of sharing to all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all members of our global family: that we may all recognise the importance of our brothers and sisters and share what we can for the good of all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our communities, families and friends: that we may be moved to care for one another and share what we have so all people can live full and happy lives. Lord, in your mercy...

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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Closing prayer: Christ Jesus, as Christmas approaches, we look forward joyfully to your coming. Help us to share what we can so all people may have what they need. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to complete the accompanying activity sheet.

Use our family prayer resource sheets (<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/advent-family-prayer-ideas>) to create a Christmas tree bauble reflecting Advent joy. This can be cut out and hung it on the tree once it is up. You could encourage the children to stick the paper template to card to make it stiffer.

Encourage the children to discuss all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Remind them to try their best to share and to spread joy throughout the world in the coming week.

*Gospel passage taken from:
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