DECEMBER 13, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Jesus brings good news.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light
Monday	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Good news of deliverance
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	A call to rejoice
Wednesday	Romans 10:14-17	Those who bring good news
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Timothy's encouraging report
Friday	Genesis 18:1-18	A son for Abraham and Sarah
Saturday	Psalm 126	A people who dream
Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. **Isaiah 61:1 (NRSVUE)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Loving God, help us to be aware of the needs of others and be prepared to bring them joy and good news through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
God, may this food fill our hearts with laughter and make us shout with joy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the true light of Jesus guide you now and always.

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The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson. For a brief description, go to: https://milestonesministry.org/history-of-the-four-keys/.

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DECEMBER 13, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Tell or think about a recent mountain high and valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you felt sad or brokenhearted? What helped you feel better?
- How does Jesus make a difference for your life and the lives of others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11.

An American emailed his friend in Zimbabwe and asked if he was well. His friend responded, "I am well if you are well." This is a communal understanding of wellness. We cannot be well on our own. We are not truly well even when we are safe and protected if our neighbor is not. The prophet Isaiah brings good news for all people, especially those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, captive, imprisoned, mourn, or suffering in some other way. God's work of justice and mercy will bring joy to every place and is for every person, not just for a special few. How do you see the wellbeing of others as important for your own wellbeing?

Pray: **God of justice, we give you thanks that your goodness and mercy is for us and for all the world through Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

God promises to bring joy that overcomes pain, disappointment, and fear. Think of someone currently experiencing difficulties. How can you bring them joy this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If you have not already done so, set up a Christmas nativity set in your home. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope, the second one of peace, and the third one of joy. Sit in silence for a moment and look at the nativity set, thinking about the good news and joy the coming of Jesus brings us.

Pray: **Lord God, thank you for being with us in times of sadness and times of joy. Give us hope, peace and joy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.**

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