

The Third Sunday of Advent, Rite 1, Reflection and group sharing.
St. Michael's Church, Sunday December 15, 2024
The Reverend Joshua Wong

In this season of Advent, we slow down to prepare the coming of Jesus. During these past two weeks of Advent, we have been exploring the themes "hope," and "Joy." These readings from Luke and Zephaniah are filled with, hope, promise, and joy, and peace even in the midst of hardships.

Today, on the third Sunday of Advent, we also include peace. This may be the perfect week to name and explore the role of peace-in-the-midst-of-sorrow or anxiety in our lives.

Throughout Advent and soon Christmas Day, we often sing "Joy to the World. " This song is a good reminder as a tangible way to anticipate the joy of Christmas. When Isaac Watts wrote this hymn, he wrote it as an anticipatory celebration not only of the first advent (Christmas) **but also** of the second advent, a crucial focus of the Advent season we can not forget.

How are you finding peace, joy and hope this Advent season of anticipation? How are you slowing down from the hectic season? How are you finding peace in your life when life is full of anxiety? Do you think about the Advent in terms of the second coming? May God give us strength to anticipate in this season of hope.