



Advent Week 3 (December 12)

The Children of Christmas

Read: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 1: 39-45

Light: Three Advent Candles

Children are at the center of the Christmas story. One child, who will become known as John the Baptist, is the fulfillment of a lifetime of longing for his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah. Another child, Jesus, requires a great leap of faith for the soon-to-be wed couple, Mary and Joseph. Neither child fits neatly into the plans of the world around them, and both are a source of great joy and hope.

Children can help us see the possibilities around us. The birth of John showed Elizabeth and Zechariah that God was faithful and that they continued to have a holy purpose even as they grew older in age. There was still more to be written in their story! And from the moment Mary received the news that she would be the mother of this divine child named Jesus, she would find endless ways to say yes to God and keep moving forward, even when the next step was unclear.

Children can disrupt our routines. They can delight us like none other. They make us worry and become carefree, all within the same short timeframe. Children both bring and experience light in ways that adults can struggle to replicate. Just like John and Jesus, children can show us the creativity of how our God works.

This week, pay special attention to what the children around you have to teach you about how God brings light to the world.

- What hope do you see in them?
- What could God teach you about joy and wonder through these young ones?
- If you are reading this with children, invite them to share where they've seen joy and love throughout their day. Consider even inviting them to pray for your family during this reading time or over a meal this week.

Pray: Thank you God for the gift of children- for the way that they help us see the world and hope that they can bring. Teach us through them and help us be open to how you work in and through them. Help us follow you, Lord, with childlike faith and wonder. Amen.