

WORSHIP AT HOME

Hope | Peace | Joy

The Blessed Pray

Praise him, you who have received eyes to see God with us!

Praise him, you who have received eyes to see God with us making Peace with sin and death.

Praise him, you who have received thee Joy of ears to hear God's still small voice.

The Blessed Confess

Return to the Lord all your heart!

Return to the Lord all of your mind!

Return to the Lord all of your soul.

The Blessed Repent

In Good and Evil God is able to deliver you.

In right and wrong God is able to heal you.

In sin and death God is able to lead you to join the Heavenly Chorus singing, Hallelujah!



OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON

CHAPTER 3

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13

ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Jesus says, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."





World, Exile, and Wilderness

John tells us that God loves the World. God loves people! (John 3:16.)

Matthew tells us that Jesus is God in a body like ours. Jesus shows us God's love of the world by eating with sinners and tax collectors.

Jesus tells us that He is God who desires mercy, not sacrifice.

The World sacrifices people in the name of power, control, and authority.

World leaders tend to send people into exile. In today's text God sends Joseph to Egypt. Is Joseph being sent into exile or into the Wilderness to worship?

Exile is anyplace people are carried to suffer the fear of a leader like Herod. He fears losing control. The Wilderness is anyplace we find ourselves alone with God. I contend that God gives us the gifts of worship in the Wilderness.

Read Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:8; Hosea 6:6

Advent means we watch and wait for the Coming Christ. Christ comes to give Joy. The "meek" receive Christ's Joy. Disciples of Christ give joy to the world which makes Peace on earth!

Joseph is Meek. He receives "God with Us". The Hope of "God with us" shepherds Joseph to receive Peace in the very place his people experience Exile. When Herod dies, God calls Joseph to bring His Son out of Egypt. God calls His Son out of exile to announce Joy to our Disturbed World which makes Peace on earth.

This week speak with loved ones about your experience of fear of sin that led you into being exiled from God, community, family, and friends. Then share your experience of discovering God with you to give you Hope and Peace that delivered you from sin, to heal you with Joy.

ACT THREE: "I CALLED MY SON



The Word of God: Matthew 2:13-15

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, **15** where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." [

For many years I have worked to wrap my heart-soul-mind around Matthew 18. When “another member of the Church sins” against me/us, I hear Jesus tell me/us to go to that person and point out the fault. How shall we go?

The person who sinned against me/us abused their power. The abuse could be theft, adultery/sex... any of the 613 Laws of Moses.

The power shifts the moment I/we point out our neighbor’s sin. I/we now sit in judgement of our neighbor. Will we judge according to the way of the world, exile them, or walk with them through the Wilderness of Sin by Hope, with Peace, to Joyfully Worship in God’s House of Prayer with Love?

Jesus says, I desire mercy, not sacrifice. Do we have eyes and ears to be aware of the three realms represented in Jesus’ fulfillment of the prophet?

The World teaches us the way of sacrifice. The Bible describes sacrifice as an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. This is why Jesus says there will always be wars, rumors of war, and famines.

When the Church walks in the Way of the World people fear their Church is dying, they fear prayer is being taken away, and the freedom to worship is being stolen. The power and authority of the Church is Christ, the light of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

No wonder Jesus suffered the worldly realm, died to the realm of sin, and rose to the realm of eternal life. Will we?

Pastoral Prayer

Father, Christ’s Hope opens our heart to experience You with us always. Christ’s Peace opens our minds to mercy and grace greater than all our sin. Will Christ’s Joy heal the sin deafened ears of our souls? Lord, in the name of Christ, give us ears to hear your still small voice. While we watch and wait for the Coming Christ teach us Worship as the Way to return to receive Your Love. Amen

Message: Out of Egypt I called My Son

The Blessed Pray

We pray with Hope that “God with us” will Shepherd us in Christ’s Peace to experience the Joy of Worship.

Hope gives us eyes to see ourself sitting in Papa’s lap clothed in Peace. Hope and Peace give us eyes to see Joseph, the Magi, Herod, and all of Jerusalem through God’s eyes.

Watching gives us eyes to see. Waiting gives us ears to hear! You hear it too. Don’t you? It is as if we have always heard it. It is like the sound of water. Its depth fills heaven and earth. Oh, the Joy of having ears to hear the Heavenly host sing Hallelujah.

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Revelation 19:6

Invitation to Pray

Praise him, you who have received eyes to see God with us!

Praise him, you who have received eyes to see God with us making Peace with sin and death.

Praise him, you who have received ears to hear God’s still small voice.

The Blessed Confess

“God with us” shepherds us out of Egypt into the Wilderness to experience the Holy Spirit leading us in worship.

Clothed in Christ’s joy we receive ears to hear God calling Joseph to Worship.

Imagine seeing God send Joseph to Egypt clothed in Hope and Peace. Now, imagine turning to Papa to ask, “Papa, why did you send Joseph to Egypt? I remember you telling Moses how you heard the cries of your people and saw their misery. Papa, I thought you sent Moses to deliver your people from Egypt? Papa answers, “I did, **your name here**. I am the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Receiving my Hope and Peace gives you eyes to see all things through My eyes. Your, knowledge, however, is lacking. My Joy gives you ears to hear my still small voice. I delivered my people from Egypt, and brought them into the Wilderness of Sin to give them ears to hear me leading them in Worship.

Invitation to Confess

*Praise him, you who have received eyes to see God with us! **Return to the Lord all your of heart!***

*Praise him, you who have received eyes to see God with us making Peace with sin and death. **Return to the Lord all of your mind!***

*Praise him, you who have received ears to hear God’s still small voice. **Return to the Lord all of your soul.***

The Blessed Repent

Watching and waiting for the Coming Christ we see Joseph’s soul. Joseph soul has ears to hear God’s still small voice. We hear God say, “Out of Egypt I will call my Son.” Papa turns to us saying, “Receive my Joy. Then you will have ears to hear. Only then will you experience my Holy Spirit as the voice of the One who leads Worship.”

Scripture teaches that God called His Son out of Egypt and led him into the wilderness to show us the way of Worship.

Matthew 4: Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[b]”

Let those who receive ears hear every word that comes from the mouth of God. Let there be Hope, Peace, and Joy in our hearts, minds, and souls. Let us return the Way of Worship.

Invitation to Repent

*Praise him you who have received eyes to see God with us! Return to the Lord all your of heart! **In good and evil God is able to deliver you.***

*Praise him you who have received eyes to see God with us making Peace with sin and death. Return to the Lord all of your mind! **In right and wrong God is able to heal you.***

*Praise him you who have received ears to hear God's still small voice. Return to Him all of your soul. **In Sin and Death God is able to lead you to join the Heavenly Chorus singing , Hallelujah!***

The Blessed Witness

Hope means we watch with all our mind while we wait with all our heart to experience "God with Us".

Peace is the experience of "God with us" leading us like a Shepherd. "See, I am with you always even to the end of the age. I am with you in fear as you fight, play dead, and run. I am with you in moments of shame, guilt, and blame. I am with you in hopes of shepherding you in the way of peace.

Joy is the experience of returning another way. Peacekeepers, like Herod, drive God's children into exile to escape fear of sin and death. Peacemakers are the "meek" who inherit the earth. Hope and Peace gives the Meek eyes to see the earth as the Wilderness where we learn to let God lead us in Worship with all of our heart, all of our mind, and all of our soul.

The Apostle Paul speaks about this way of worship!

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5

Tithes

Remember the Drop Box on the side of the Church Building accessed via the alley between the Church and the Toney's home.

Offerings

Trinity has a Christmas tradition of gifting our staff. Mark your gifts “Staff Christmas” and placed it in our secure drop box, the mail, or in the offering plate during in person worship on December 20th.

Offer God your heart, soul, and mind. Offer and God will receive you and fill you with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Benediction

In the beginning God said “let there be light!” The Light is Christ. He is the Light of Love who shines with Hope. He is the Light of Love who makes Peace. He is the Light of Love who leads us in the Joy of Worship. Jesus calls us to be His Light Witness in the World, Exile, and Wilderness. Ameen