

3rd Sunday of Advent – REJOICE SUNDAY (Rose Vestments)

Explain my stole – purple, why JC came, Rose JOY, Rejoice He is almost here

It's REJOICE SUNDAY, BE GLAD – Despite whatever the world is throwing at us REJOICE!

Listen to the 1st Reading again: **The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.**

How cool is THAT! Rejoice, be glad – this is Good News! We GET to do this REJOICE

Then it continues **I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.**

Joy! In my God is the joy of my soul. Did you know that JOY is one of the fruit of the HS? GAL5 says the fruit of having HS in your life is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self control. JOY with GOD Christmas celebrates the birth of God with us - JOY

We're not done - the 2nd Reading says:

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus

ARE YOU SERIOUS? Rejoice Always? – In all circumstances give thanks? Really?

YES – especially when it seems that darkness is all around us (because WE have the light)

Today's gospel says **“A man named John was sent from God. He came to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.”**

LIGHT CASTS OUT DARKNESS - if darkness seems to be all around us we need light, we need JC!

An old rabbi was once asked the meaning of life – he told the story of being a boy in Auschwitz and after a motorcycle crash he kept a piece of broken mirror and used it to reflect light into dark places. He looked at his students and said, the meaning of life is to bring light into darkness.

(you need to face the light, with nothing in the way)

John came to testify to the light – to Jesus. Jesus told His disciples (us) that they were the light of the world and we shouldn't be hiding the light under a basket – but SHINE for all to see

John came to testify to the light, to prepare the way of the Lord

So let me ask you – if J the B came to prepare the way of the Lord

Who has prepared YOU – who was your J the B? I'll wait

Who have you been J the B for?

Who do you know who needs a J the B? What are you going to do about it?

We have the light of Christ – SHINE!