

3rd Week of Advent

Remember when I was little:

Star bright, Star Light	First star I see tonight
Wish I may	Wish I might
Get the wish I wish tonight	(Make a wish)

Cute – made you happy when you did it – a glimmer of joy

But you had to wait and watch for that 1st star

People of Jesus' time were waiting and watching for the Messiah

It was going to be a time of great Joy when HE came - Well →

- Today is Gaudete Sunday - Joy Sunday – 3rd week of Advent – Almost there!
 - Wherever God is – There is JOY – and God is among us!
 - In the midst of our day to day lives – God is there with us
 - **BUT** as long as we live in the world God's joy doesn't seem to too present
We have: Suffering Crime Unemployment Sickness and Death
WHY? SIN – from Adam and Eve to today, SIN
So what does God do about that?
- John the Baptist comes out of the desert to deal with this issue – with a one word message from God
 - REPENT – change your lives – forgiveness can be yours
 - The people come in droves
 - His disciples grow – Lives are changed – His ministry flourishes
 - His call to repent includes everyone – EVEN THE KING, who isn't pleased
 - John is arrested, thrown into prison
 - *From Jail* John prays
 - *From Jail* John continues to preach – even to the King
 - *From Jail* John hears about JESUS
 - So *From Jail* John sends his disciples to Jesus
 - “Are you the messiah, or should we seek another?”
 - Jesus said “Look around, the signs of the Messiah are all around you”
Blind see, Deaf hear, Lame walk, Good News is proclaimed
(1st reading of Is is fulfilled)
 - J O Y! The Kingdom of God is at hand - REJOICE
 - That same JOY is OURS
We GET to REPENT – we can be forgiven
 - Because of JESUS
As Advent comes closer to Christmas we REJOICE
The Kingdom of God is not at hand – it is here – right here, right now!
- REJOICE = it is Gaudete Sunday. REJOICE SUNDAY
- The light of Christ has destroyed the darkness of sin – and **we** are children of light
- Repent, be forgiven and embrace the Joy God has for us – what a Christmas present!