



## ADVENT WEEK 3

### Joy

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

#### GOSPEL READING:

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, he was to bear witness to the light... This was the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He declared, he did not deny but declared, 'I am not the Christ.' So they asked, 'Then are you Elijah?' He replied, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So he said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight!' Now those who had been sent were Pharisees, and they put this question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the Prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water; but standing among you -- unknown to you- is the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandal.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

#### REFLECTION:

- The Gospel readings during Advent reiterate the same message. They may seem very similar. When repetition occurs, there is something we really need to hear. There is hope, there is faith, there is joy. The Good News is on His way, prepare to hear it, to receive it because it is for you.
- Who are you? How would you describe yourself? What characteristics and attributes come to mind first? Are they positive or negative? Are they more superficial or more significant?
- Where do you find yourself along the journey? Is it hard for you to not get lost, distracted?
- How are you bearing witness to the light of Jesus? Are you helping those around you prepare for the Incarnation? How can you better prepare yourself and your community for Jesus' birth?
- Take 5 minutes to just be still and focus on Jesus. Ask Him to speak His truth over you, revealing to Your heart where He rejoices in you. Maybe this is new for you. That's ok. Just receive and be God-conscious, not self-conscious.

#### SONG SUGGESTION:

♪ ['When You Walk Into The Room'](#) - Bryan & Katie Torwalt