

Devotion for 3rd Week of Advent Rev. Jeanne Simpson

“For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.” Luke 1:44 Elizabeth said this when Mary went to visit her. Elizabeth was six months pregnant, expecting the unexpected – a child in her and Zechariah’s old age. And the baby recognized the voice of Elizabeth as the mother of the Savior and leaped for joy. God’s miracle with Elizabeth was being repeated with the miracle with Mary – two unexpected, miracle babies about to be born.

We just celebrated Joy in our third Sunday of Advent. And this passage from Luke manifests that joy.

Henri Nouwen said that “Jesus always promises joy....Joy is a free leaping toward the unexpected, a lifting up of what is new, a reaching out to heaven in hope, a touching of the Kingdom, an expectant tiptoeing.”

I love this idea as we move through Advent, waiting for the birth of the Savior – joy leaps toward this miraculous birth as we wait. We have a glimpse of the Kingdom. And at times we see something new, we see hope, we feel like we can touch that kingdom, while at time joy leaps and at times it tiptoes.

Jesus is our joy – not because he solves all our problems or eradicates everything that causes pain in the world – but because he joins us here and promises to be with us always. With joy we reach with him toward heaven, we touch God’s kingdom, we leap toward the unexpected and the extraordinary.

So be joyful! Jesus is coming soon!

Jeanne