



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Deep Everlasting Joy

Reader One:

“The desert shall rejoice and blossom... everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.” (Isaiah 35:1, 10)

Reader Two:

This is the joy that runs deeper than circumstance. This joy is not confined by geography. It echoes in the songs of children in refugee camps, in the prayers of elders in remote villages, and in the celebrations of churches worldwide. It is the **deep, everlasting joy** of knowing we are loved, that we are not alone, and that God is making a way for us. Even in the wilderness, joy blooms.

Reader One:

“Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob... the Lord will reign forever.” (Psalm 146)

Reader Two:

We light these candles as signs that joy is a global song—sung by the redeemed in every corner of creation. We light these candles—of **joyous hope, proclaimed peace**, and now **deep everlasting joy**—as signs that joy is not fleeting. It is the song of the redeemed, the laughter of the free, the light that never fades.

Light the first three candles. If using a rose candle, light it now.

