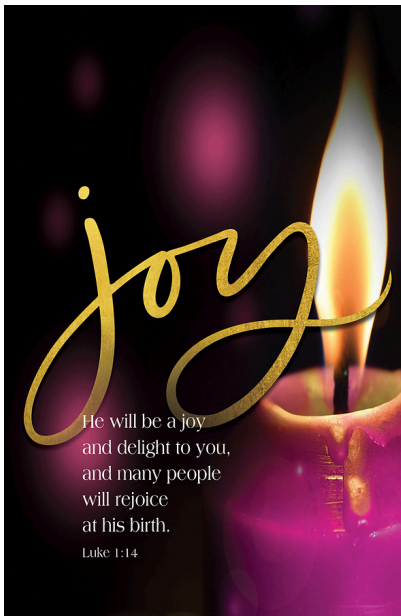


CFE NEWS

A place where families grow, live and walk by Faith in JESUS!



The Candle of Joy for Advent

Week 3

Otherwise known as the Shepherd Candle, this third candle of Advent reflects the joy that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the salvation he has gifted us. The third candle is known as the candle of joy. Instead of the previous two weeks of purple or violet candles, this week the color of the candle will be different: it's pink. As a reminder, three candles are purple, one is pink, and the one in the center is white.

What Is the Candle of Joy?

Otherwise known as the Shepherd Candle, this candle reflects the joy that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the salvation he has gifted us.

During this third week of advent, this Sunday celebrates the passage *(Philippians 4:4-5)*, its verses celebrate the joy of Christ's coming to earth.

During a time where depression is at an all-time high and people seem to be in the most despair, this candle offers a bright light during a dark time. It is also known as the Shepherd Candle to highlight the joy the shepherds experienced when they received the good news about Christ's birth *(Luke 2:8-20)*. During the middle of the night, the darkest time, the shepherds encountered angels.

Why Does This Matter?

This matters because, while we wait for Christ to come again, we don't have to despair. God has given us a joy that no one can take away. No matter what happens in this dark world, we can experience light. We experience difficulties differently than the world. We have light even in the darkest moments. Joy is essential to the Christian experience. We cannot get far without it, and we need it as we, like the shepherds, anticipate the coming of our Savior.



My Prayer

Heavenly Father,

This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with.

It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing. Those who gathered around the new baby were blessed because they believed that you had fulfilled your promises. Mary and Joseph believed and were able to feel the joy of holding baby Jesus in their arms. The shepherds and wise men believed the angles and the signs and experienced the great gladness of worshiping their Messiah. Father, you offer that same joy to us now if we know you and recognize Jesus as our Savior and Lord. You gave us a reason to celebrate when you gave us the unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ. You came to dwell among us. You went to Calvary's cross for us. You overcame death and rose from the dead for us. You forgive our sins and give us eternal life when we believe in you. Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn't come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy

is a gift. It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen



Song of the Week...

This week's featured song story comes to us from Matthew West, *The Heart of Christmas*. A Christmas song people find themselves returning to year after year, and as they do, may find their hearts returning to the true meaning of this wonderful season. However, in addition to the usual warm and fuzzy sensation we get from songs about snowflakes and Santa's sleigh, Matthew West takes time to synthesize the normal sentiments of the season with an overarching message expressed in several of his songs: In the mystery of Jesus' birth, "There is peace on earth for every heart to find." Hope this song warms your heart, It's one of my favorites...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tho8r0n_y6Y



https://www.google.com/search?q=advent+coloring+pages&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA712CA712&oq=advent+coloring+pages&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i512j0i22i30l8.5264j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8



Things to do and places you can go this coming season...



Decorating ornaments? Looking for that special, personalized gift from the heart? Get inspired! Ceramic Cafe is the one stop shop for all your crafty holiday projects. The best part is that you can do it all from home as a family...great fun for the kids! Check out their website and start creating! <https://leccs.com/en/>



https://www.trevi.com/en/the-magic-of-christmas-trevi?srsltid=AfmBOoqUuwQ7KvW7ExHuRwVrN5n30X3Z28zoDJV_2-uOg6XgFer_aPA



The Great Christmas Market

Take part in the cultural, festive and culinary activities taking place in Montréal during the holiday season and celebrate, and celebrate, in complete safety, the delightful Nordicity of the city.

<https://noelmontreal.ca/grandmarchedenoel/en/the-great-christmas-market>

Resources For Couples, Parents & Families



FYI ... The Hallmark Channel

Looking for some family Christmas movies? The Hallmark channel has already begun their countdown to Christmas. Get the Hallmark Channel schedule, enter sweepstakes, celebrate Christmas, and find original Hallmark movies, series and so much more family stuff!

<https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/>



Helping Families Thrive

At *Focus on the Family Canada*, families are equipped with practical advice grounded in Biblical truths so they can thrive. When families are strong, they leave a valuable imprint on society for generations to come. *Focus on the Family* is committed to helping Canadians nurture, protect and invest in their families so they can thrive, even in the messy brokenness of our world.

<https://www.focusonthefamily.ca>



Contemporary Christian Music radio stations are listener-supported ministries to be a Biblical, Christ-centered communications and educational ministry dedicated to reaching people and igniting transformation within by affirming faith, inspiring hope and equipping each person to live an intentional life in Christ.

The vision is to see individuals, families, churches and nations of the world transformed – as evidenced by individuals living an intentional life in Christ.

<https://www.myflr.org>

<https://www.siriusxm.ca/channels/the-message>

<https://www.klove.com>



At Intentional Living, they hold a passion to help people live intentionally in the five essential areas of life: Faith, Relationships, Health, Finances and Work. Ever since their establishment in 2007 they have been motivated by their God-given mission, vision and message.

<https://www.theintentionallife.com>



Pure Flix is a Christian film production and distribution studio founded by David A. R. White and Russell Wolfe, inspired by Netflix. PureFlix produces Christian films, including God's Not Dead, Do You Believe?, Woodlawn, The Case for Christ, and Unplanned. Positive entertainment that changes lives, inspires hearts, and lifts the spirit. Premium streaming with no ads or interruptions.

<https://www.pureflix.com>