

Preparing the Way with Water to Thrive

Third Sunday of Advent – “Be On Fire!”

Luke 3:16-18



Litany

L: On the third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles, reminding us to be on fire!

C: In a world that is often filled with darkness, let us shine with the unquenchable light of the Holy Spirit.

L: By giving of ourselves, our time and our possessions, we can bring hope and joy to our neighbors near and far.

C: May we look for ways to be a light, using our talents and treasures to share Your love.

L: Open our eyes to the gifts inside each of us. Open our ears to the needs of the world. Open our hands, that we may actively use them to build a better world.

C: Amen.

Meditation

As Christians, we are baptized with water, but also with fire! As the waters of baptism wash over us with forgiveness, the fire of the Holy Spirit spurs us to share that grace with the world. We are called to BE ON FIRE with Christ's radical message of love for all people. During Advent, we have a tradition of sharing this light in a very literal way, by stringing colorful lights on our houses and trees to brighten our neighborhoods. We also share light by lifting our voices in carols, supporting canned food drives, and sending out Christmas cards. What a privilege it is to be able to share our joy with others!

This Advent, we look beyond the needs of our own communities to remember the needs of people around our world. We are privileged in the U.S. to have access to both water and fire. Clean water, electricity and gas flow right into our homes. In rural Africa, however, many people do not have clean drinking water or the fuel that would be needed to boil it and make it safer to drink. Without these basic necessities, every day thousands of children face disease and even death. But when a community receives clean water and is trained to use it to take care of their bodies, the threat of waterborne illnesses is drastically decreased. Children have the chance to attend school, to grow up, and to reach for their dreams. A gift like this is a light in the darkness, changing everything for the people who receive it.

Years ago, a Light in the Darkness changed everything about our world. What will we do to reflect Jesus' light?

Prayer

God of Light, We give you thanks for the many blessings you bestow upon us, and the many ways you light our world. You have made each of us unique and special, filling us with gifts, talents and passion. May our hearts be on fire, that we might address the greatest needs of the world by sharing the light inside us. In Jesus name we pray, **Amen.**