# Third Sunday of Advent: News of great joy

## Creative Prayer Ideas

* **Open to Receiving God**

Quietly pray with your hands outstretched before you in a gesture of receiving. While words are not necessary, it may help you to use and repeat the phrase ‘Lord, I receive your love’. If your mind wanders, do not feel bad or guilty; just offer those wandering thoughts back to God and return to your receiving attitude of prayer. During this time give people the freedom to say their prayers aloud and over your corps community.

* **Newspaper Angels**

Follow the video demonstration to make [paper angels](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ32mEjo_kU) using newspaper:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ32mEjo_kU>
People may want to hang this up somewhere to remind them during Advent to share with others the good news of great joy.

* **Candle of Joy**

The third Sunday of Advent traditionally is represented by a light pink candle. On strips of light pink paper, have people creatively express a prayer giving thanks to God for the joy he has brought, or a prayer for joy to be revealed. People may write or draw their prayers, or people may even shape the piece of paper to look like something else. Give people the freedom to be creative acknowledging that this is easier for some people, while others may enjoy just reflecting with their pink piece of paper.

## Creative Worship Ideas

* **Whispers**

Ask for a few volunteers. Tell the first person in the line a phrase which they then must repeat to the next person. It is unlikely that message will be the same at the end of the line. To make this harder you can ask the congregation to make loud noises while each person tries to share the message. The Christmas message doesn’t change; this year might just reveal something new, but we must block out the distractions of Christmas to really listen to God.

* **Share Good News**

Spend some time celebrating the good news happening in your life and in the lives of your corps. Share some good news with those around you. God is with us in the hard, challenging times as well as the good.

* **A Grain of Rice**

An international exhibition showcases grains of rice to represent people and their spending habits, impact and other general statistics. The video gives an insight into the ‘[Of All the People in All the World](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z162S3vQWHc&t=226s%5d)’ performances:
[**www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z162S3vQWHc&t=226s**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z162S3vQWHc&t=226s)
 – use a clip or the full video to give context. You may want to create

a version to show the Nativity scene. Although Jesus was born a

helpless baby, he had an immeasurable impact. Don’t doubt the

size of the impact you can have by sharing the good news of Jesus.