



# WORSHIP

resources for worship

Warren Howell, Editor

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# December 15, 2019: ADVENT 3A

**Color:** Blue or Purple

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#) (*The desert blooms as God's people return from exile*)

[Luke 1:47-55](#) (*The song of Mary: My spirit rejoices*)

[James 5:7-10](#) (*Patience until the coming of the Lord*)

[Matthew 11:2-11](#) (*The forerunner of Christ*)

**Themes:** Joy, Blossoming, Mary, Justice, Patience, Preparation

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**FOCAL Faithelement PASSAGE:** Isaiah 35:1-10

([Podcast](#) will be ready 2 weeks before date of use)

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information regarding writers, composers, alternate and associated texts and tunes, corresponding hymn numbers, and more. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts.

[Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming](#) (*ES IST EIN ROS*)

[Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn](#) (*REJOICE, REJOICE*)

[People, Look East](#) (*BESANÇON*)

[Good Christians Friends, Rejoice](#) (*IN DULCI JUBILO*)

[It Came Upon the Midnight Clear](#) (*CAROL*)

[Canticle of the Turning \(My Soul Cries Out\)](#) (*STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*)

[Tell Out, My Soul](#) (*WOODLANDS*)

[Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come](#) (*ANTIOCH*)

Before/During Prayer/Lighting of Advent Wreath Candle

[Wait for the Lord](#) (Jacques Berthier/Taizé)

Kindle a Flame (*see below*)

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## ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**All Earth is Hopeful** (Toda la Tierra) - MD

Alberto Taulé; James E. Bobb, arr.  
Augsburg Fortress, 9781506425641  
SATB, Piano, opt. Percussion

**Mary, Did You Know** - M

Mark Lowry/Buddy Greene;  
Jack Schrader, arr.  
Hope Publishing, C 5037  
SAB, Piano (also available for SATB)

**A Maiden Most Gentle** - M

Andrew Carter, arr.  
Oxford University Press, 0193430673  
SATB, Organ

**Mary Had a Baby** - M

Traditional Spiritual, William L. Dawson, arr.  
Kjos Music, T118  
SATB, solo, a cappella

**Gaudete (A Renaissance Carol)** - E

Robert J. Batastini  
GIA Music Publishers, G-3056  
SATB, Handbells, Percussion

**There is a Great Joy Coming** - M

Buryl Red/Mark Hayes, arr.  
(from *Celebrate Life*)  
ALFRED 00-46887  
SATB, Piano

**Prepare the Royal Highway** - E

*BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN*, Hal Hopson, arr.  
MorningStar Music, MSM-50-0301-9116  
Unison or Two-Part Any Voices, Piano

**Canticle of the Turning** - E

Irish Trad., Rory Cooney  
GIA Publications, G-3407  
SAB, Congregation, Keyboard,  
Guitar, Two C-Instruments

**Mary, Mary** - E

Richard Avery/Donald Marsh  
Michael Burkhardt, arr.  
Choristers Guild, CGA1216  
2-Part treble or mixed, Piano and  
opt. handbells or handchimes

## ADVENT WREATH / CANDLELIGHTING

### Week 3

(Isaiah 35:1-2a)

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.*

O come, Immanuel, God-with-us.

**Come Light. Come Joy.**

Shine in the shadows.

**Brighten your world.**

It is with JOY that we light a candle,

**that joy will blossom in our lives,**

that all places bereft and deserted  
will rejoice in song,

**that others will see the glory of the Lord.**

*~ candle is lit ~*

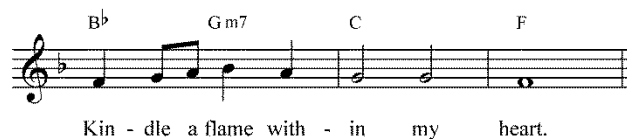
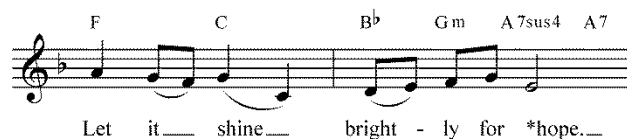
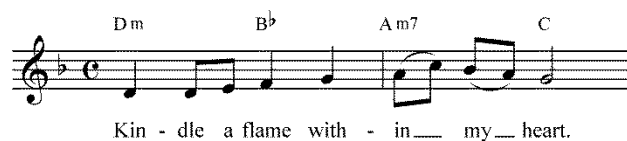
Sing:

**Kindle a flame within my heart.**

**Let it shine brightly for joy.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come and ne'er depart.**

**Kindle a flame within my heart.**



\*peace, joy, love

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

“Joy is prayer - Joy is strength - Joy is love - Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. She gives most who gives with joy.”

— MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA (1910-1997)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praise and shout for joy!

**The Lord is in our midst.**

Rejoice in the Lord always.

**Again, I say rejoice! The Lord is near.**

### COLLECTIVE PRAYER

Courageous and joyful God,  
your wide love for all creation  
hinged upon the “yes” of a teenage  
woman, upon her body and her courage.  
Give us courage, that we too may say,  
“Here I am. Let it be according to your word,”  
that we, too, might be open and alert for  
visiting angels, for possibility, for love. Amen.

### LITANIES/LITURGIES

Lord Jesus, Living Christ:

**Let it be in us according to your Word.**

That we pursue righteousness,  
**that we act justly.**

That we act in kindness,  
**defend the cause of the poor,**  
give deliverance to the needy,  
**and that we glorify your name.**

May righteousness flourish,  
**and may peace abound,**  
according to your Word.  
**Amen.**

## CONFESSION

God of joy, Giver of every Perfect Gift --  
we tend to misplace the joy you have given us.  
**We can grow weary, our eyes blinded,**  
our ears stopped, our song becomes silent.  
**When we overlook your glory around us,**  
when time becomes a weight,  
**when delight becomes duty,**  
when days become desultory and dark,  
**Come to us, Lord Jesus, joy of our longing hearts,**  
**Come with your radiant and quickening Spirit. Amen.**

## FOR BEFORE SCRIPTURE

From the desert places, to enter the wilderness of our own hearts, hear again (or for the first time) the cry of the living God: Listen! Make ready! Prepare! This is God's word to us.

## BENEDICTION

The Hope of Christ  
Before us  
**The Peace of Christ**  
**Between us**  
The Joy of Christ  
Beneath us  
**The Love of Christ**  
**Above and within us**  
Now and forever,  
**Amen.**