

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Third Sunday in Advent



## Gaudete Sunday

Today is Gaudete Sunday! Rejoice!

Advent, as we have seen, is a "getting ready" season and people used to fast in this penitential season. That means they would go without rich foods as a sign of sorrow for their wrongdoing and as a way of drawing closer to God in prayer.

Gaudete Sunday was a bit of a break day – a day of refreshment – during this time. So it was – and still is – a day for rejoicing! We also rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return!

Today we light the pink candle in the Advent wreath. This is because pink, or rose, is a liturgical colour for joy. "Gaudete" means "rejoice!" in Latin.

Our first reading today is from the prophet Isaiah and speaks of the joy that we will share when Christ comes again and of the glory of his kingdom. Our second reading, from the Letter of James, tells us that the coming of the Lord is near!

In our Gospel reading we hear more about John the Baptist and of how John, in prison, sent his disciples out to ask Jesus if he was the long-awaited Messiah.



How does Jesus respond to John's disciples? Does he give them a straight answer?

No! Instead of saying "yes" or "no", Jesus quotes from Isaiah. The passage he uses is, however, one that people would have associated with the Messiah! Clever!!

Jesus then goes on to speak about John and just how great and important a person this cousin of his was!

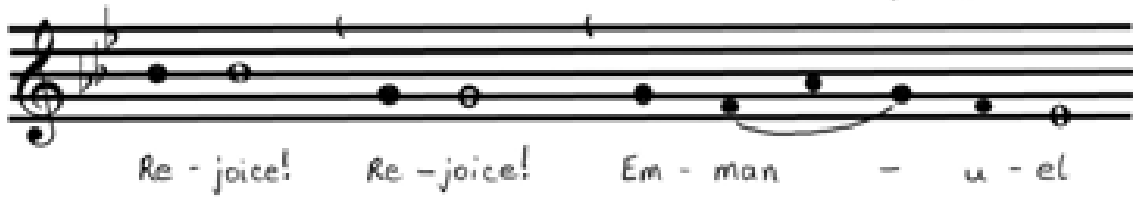
Today we listen carefully to all the readings and rejoice!



Our prayer for the lighting of the third candle makes a good daily prayer for this week:



Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever! Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages. Blessed be God for ever.



# O Come O Come Emmanuel

