Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Advent is the season that highlights the contrasts between darkness and light. As the nights get longer, the days get shorter. This, in turn, means that there is more darkness and less daylight. Yet, on the Advent wreath, another candle is lit, rather than a candle taken away.

As I mentioned last week, each Sunday, as a new Advent candle is lit, more light comes into the world; the light of Christ. Each week we come closer to Christmas and the day in which we celebrate Christ's birth.

This Sunday we light the pink/rose candle in our Advent wreath. Unlike the first two candles which reflect on repentance, the pink candle celebrates the joy that comes to us through Christ. It is sometimes called the "candle of joy."

May you celebrate today, the joy that Christ's birth brings to the world. May you witness and give testimony to Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one!

Peace,

**Pastor Cathy**