

# REJOICE; THE LORD IS NIGH

The theme for the third Sunday of Advent is Joy! Joy is a difficult word to capture most of the year, but during Advent we all share those same feelings of anticipation and expectation.

Joy is hoping. Joy is giving. Joy is receiving. Joy is sharing.

On this Sunday we listen to the words of the Prophet Zephaniah as he cries out:

*"Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!  
The King of Israel is in your midst."*

and respond to the Apostle Paul's words from the letter to the Philippians:

*"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice",*

with joy in our hearts, because God is coming and continues to dwell with us.

It is appropriate that Bishop Beisner has designated the third Sunday of Advent for Episcopal Community Services' annual appeal.

Episcopal Community Services of Northern California (ECS) has supported the work of ministering to the sick, the homeless, the hungry and poor in the Diocese of Northern California for nearly 40 years.

We are asking you to share your joy this season by giving generously so that ECS can continue helping YOU

**"Serve Christ by Serving Others".**

All donations are for the Ministry Development Fund which supports YOUR ministries.

Please place your gift in the offering plate marked for ECS or mail it directly to

Episcopal Community Services,

350 University Ave. Suite 280,

Sacramento, CA 95825-6517.

Donate online at [www.norcalecs.org](http://www.norcalecs.org).

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