

The Third Candle – Joy (Jimmy and Lyndsay Ennis)

Prayer

Dear Lord, we come to you with full hearts. You are the author of hope and joy and we pray that this season will be filled with reminders of your grace. Amen

Introduction

Today we light the candle of hope and joy. We have lit the candles of anticipation and peace and today we share together the joyous and hopeful expectations of the birth of our Lord and the grace bestowed on us.

Scripture: Luke 2

...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Lyndsay's story

Jimmy and I had been married about 3 years when we got pregnant with Libby. And neither of us can remember what life was like before her. Children bring parents a whole new feeling of hope and joy. Libby was planned, but Beau was a SURPRISE joy. God decided we needed one more child. When we were doing the ultrasound, I knew it was a boy before they told me. And then when he was born and we were in the hospital we “face timed” with Libby and I will never forget her look when she saw her baby brother for the first time. That was the ultimate picture of joy. Our family was complete.

When I was pregnant, I hoped for a healthy baby, but now I also hope for patience, guidance and support from others. I can't help but wonder how Mary must have felt. We all want to protect our unborn child and to experience their birth in the best place. She had to have wanted that. She could not have known that the birth in a stable would lead the world to Christmas.

Jimmy and I are big on tradition and Christmas is such an important part of that. We will attend the Christmas Eve service, and we'll make sure our children know who Jesus is and

what Christmas is all about. Church will be first before presents. We don't want Libby and Beau to be all" about" toys but we want them to understand exactly what Christmas is for.

Knowing I have this little family is great joy. I pray that the rest of our lives are filled with as much happiness as we feel today. And I pray that Jimmy and I -- and our children -- will bring hope and joy to all whose lives we touch.