**GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY- DECEMBER 13, 2020**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

*“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD’S favor.”*

**Reflection:** Watching children gather around a Christmas tree surrounded by a “pile” of presents, we can see their impatience and feel their excitement. The whole scene is so tempting for them, almost too much to bear.

Just as children experience the intense joy of an approaching Christmas Day, we adults encounter a season of intense longing for what remains hidden from us, for what we can only imagine, and for the deepest desires of the human heart to be realized.

The third Sunday of Advent, and the week that follows, celebrate the coming joy of Christmas. This joy is not about the anticipation of getting things only for ourselves. It is a common joy shared by all humanity,

The promises of God that lie hidden under the Christmas tree were unwrapped two thousand plus years ago in Bethlehem, but are now waiting to be unwrapped again this year and every year.

**Prayer:** God in this coming week, lead me to the joy that you promised. Help me to celebrate Christmas in new and powerful ways that help others see “the gift” born along ago. Amen.