



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

“A Moment of Reflection”

We are now on the third Sunday of Advent, drawing ever closer to the joyous celebration of Christ’s birth. This Sunday’s Readings invite us to embrace a spirit of joy, for the Good News is near. This Good News reminds us of the blessings we receive with Christ. With His coming into the world, we find immense comfort and joy, knowing that our God is full of mercy and compassion.

In the Gospel, we hear of various groups approaching John the Baptist, asking what they should do. John’s responses are tailored to their roles and lives: to the crowds, he speaks of generosity; to the tax collectors, he advises justice; and to the soldiers, he encourages genuine service. If we were to ask John, “What should we do?” what might his answer be for us today?

This Sunday, let us reflect on John’s potential answer to our lives. Each of us faces unique circumstances, and it is essential to consider what we can do individually and as a community of disciples. Given our economic, social, political, moral, and ecological challenges, “What should we do?” is a particularly relevant question to aid us in a moment of reflection. Many families are grieving the loss of loved ones, and many have lost jobs. Many had been displaced because of war and unrest. Natural calamities continue to shatter homes and disperse families apart. We are experiencing instability in our economic, social, cultural, and political lives, which affects our moral values and decisions.

To illuminate our path, Jesus Himself directs us to focus on the essential aspects of life, particularly the Gospel values that shape us as His disciples. Doing so allows us to share His Good News of Salvation and find true joy amidst life’s ups and downs.

As we continue our Advent journey, may our search for answers lead us to a deeper appreciation of the celebration of Christ’s birth, the source of our joy and life. May this realization inspire us to share this joy with others. May we truly recognize that the only way and the most powerful way to make lives better and to experience joy and peace is no other way than the way of Jesus.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual