

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**December 12, 2021**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Zephaniah 3:14–18a † Philippians 4:4–7 † Luke 3:10–18**



**Reflection by: Sister Jeanne Goyette, OP**

*What should we do?*

The first reading from Zephaniah reminds us of the abundant mercy and love of God. So full of love that God rejoices over us, renews us, and sings joyfully because of us. Can we really believe this? Take a moment to let these words sink in. As we reflect on this good news, we begin to realize that we have been the recipients of God's abundance. Many times we experience this abundance through nature, through family and friends, and sometimes through strangers who unexpectedly touch our hearts.

Gifted as we are, we can ask as the crowds asked John the Baptist in today's scripture reading, "What should we do?" Certainly we can be grateful, and there is also rejoicing as we share our abundance with others. Even as sadness and suffering are so prevalent in today's world, God's bountiful mercy and compassion can flow through us who have received so much. Even the tiniest action to share our gifts can have lasting effects (although we may never know it).

I recall my experience of spending time in the Dominican Republic and staying with a family in the campo (a rural area miles from the nearest city). Their simple living situation (no electricity or running water) did not diminish the joy and generosity they shared with us. It was not only the limited resources they shared but also the kindness and en-joy-ment that touched our hearts.

So what should we do?

Rejoice in the abundance of God  
and in the sharing of it in whatever way is possible for us.  
Rejoice, again I say rejoice!