**ADVENT WREATH 2018 - THE WAY OF GOD IS OUR WAY**

**THIRD ADVENT SUNDAY:**

**DISCOVER THE DEEP JOY IN THE DIFFICULTY**

**Song:** In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, in the name of the Holy Spirit. God blessed me. (2)

**Guide:**

About 1,000 years ago David, a simple shepherd who kept the flocks of his father Jesse, was anointed by the prophet Samuel, as the great king of Israel.

Some 700 years ago, Israel, who had continually relapsed in the infidelities of their parents and by ignoring the messengers that God sent him, was deported by the Chaldeans to Babylon; it was then, in the midst of the sufferings of exile, when he learned to wait for a Savior to free him from his slavery and to desire that Messiah whom the prophets had announced to him, and who was to establish a new order of peace and justice, of love and of freedom.

**Reading:**

*A voice shouts: In the desert prepare a way to the Lord; pave a road for our God in the steppe; that the valleys rise, that mountains and hills are lowered, that the twisted is straightened and the rugged is leveled. The glory of the Lord will be revealed and all men will see it together. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

*Go up to a high mountain, messenger of Zion; the voice rises loudly, messenger of Jerusalem; rise up, do not fear, tell the cities of Judah: Here is your God. Behold, the Lord God comes.* (Is 40:3-5.9-10)

**Guide:**

In suffering the people learned, thanks to the prophets, to desire the Messiah. Also today. They are "the prophetic text" that announces a new possible world that materializes with the arrival of Jesus. The joy and hope in all times, has been the humus that has kept alive the memory of God and the certainty of his closeness.

Our Founders, First Sisters and Brothers were clothed with the cloak of the prophecy given to them: To be Charity in community. In their first path from Barcelona to Zaragoza they begin to create community, to devise a project together; they walked before the challenge of paving trails, straightening the crooked ways, transforming the rugged ones into flat, in amazement...; it was not a utopia that animates them, but the very life of God in them, that descends to walk at their pace, in their path. And so, in that way, God is born!; they will stay in any place; but, above all, they will celebrate with joy that God is born on the way, every day, in the outdoor... and, of course, that they will welcome Him in the best manger: their heart.

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE:** (A Sister lights the third candle)

**Guide 2:**

"Open a path to the Lord, level the way." This phrase continues to be valid today. God cannot come to our world as long as we do not build flat roads and in the opposite direction to divisions and inequalities. May, when we light the third candle of Advent, we allow ourselves to be reached by the light of God, so that the illusion for the new may stay alive us, we lose the fear of the unknown and we see the path by which we can venture to the restoration of a world in equality and communion.

**All the Sisters:**

Lord, we are entering your path, sometimes a little diffused by the tangle of the ego that paralyzes us. Enlarge our desire for You, so that with joy and hope we may learn your fidelity and let ourselves be surprised by your mystery; may your light help us to prepare your best crib: our heart. Amen

**Advent Song**