

Each week of this Advent season, we will provide this bulletin insert that has each week's Sunday morning Advent Candle reading along with some family discussion/reflection questions for you & your family...

Fourth Week of Advent - Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20th, 2020

First Reader: This is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Today we light three purple candles and the pink candle. The first Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of peace. On the third Sunday, we lit the candle of joy. Today, we light the candle of love. One verse that many memorize and remember on this day is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Some people may not know the love of other people. That makes it harder for them to understand God's love. During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know that God's love for all people is the reason for this gift.

(Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.)

Second Reader: When we look at the fourth candle, we remember God's love. When we read the words of John 3:16, we know of God's greatness and care. We remember God's love at Advent when we remember that God sent Jesus to us to help us know that God is loving and just.

First Reader: Read 1 John 4: 7-11

Prayer:

Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for the words found in our Bible that help us remember your love and care. Help us see how we can bring God's message to the people we meet in our schools, at our jobs, and in our neighborhoods. Help us be messengers of God's love for everyone. AMEN.

Sunday's Family Discussion:

When we think of God's love, we might not always think of the words of the prophets. But when we read this picture of the peaceable kingdom, we are amazed by God's love that allows a child to lead.

- Who are the people in our world who need the message of God's love?
- What are our hopes for how people today can receive the message of God's love?
- How do we help others know God's love?

Fourth Week of Advent - Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20th, 2020

Monday, December 21, 2020: Love is something we need in our church. Think about the people in our church. Select one person in our church. Pray for that person today.

Tuesday, December 22, 2020: Spend time today thinking about your image of a world overflowing with God's love. Write your thoughts, or create a picture depicting God's love in our community and in the world.

Wednesday December 23, 2020: Think about your family. Some may live with you. Others may be far away. Who in your family needs God's love? Pray for this family member today.

Thursday, December 24, 2020: Whenever we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we sometimes get very busy. In the aftermath of the Christmas season... today, take a ten-minute break. Sit quietly. If it helps you to concentrate, look at your Advent wreath. Pray, asking God's help to bring quiet and calm to a busy world.

(And, if you can, join us tonight for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and spend this Christmas Eve in worship!)

Friday, December 25, 2020: Merry Christmas! Enjoy your family. Take the opportunity today to let each of your family members know how important they are and how much you love them!

Saturday, December 26, 2020: Take time as a family to do an act of service today for someone in your community. You might want to make a care package for someone in your community you think would benefit from a gift of love or shovel their snow. How does showing we appreciate the service of others show love? What acts of love can you do this day?



Merry Christmas!!

