

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 19th, 2021

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, the candle of peace. On the third Sunday, the candle of joy. This Sunday, we light the candle of love. One verse that many memorize and remember on this day is John 3:16, "God so loved the world..." 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.

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.

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?

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Monday, December 20th, 2021: Read Isaiah 11:1-10. Create a poster by drawing pictures of the wondrous things you see in the world around you that God has created. Create your picture of God's kingdom of peace. Give thanks for the world and all the people in the world.

Tuesday, December 21st, 2021: 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.

Wednesday, December 22nd, 2021: There are people in our neighborhoods, in our church, and in our community who need to know of God's love. Select someone to reach out to today. Visit electronically or by phone or in person. Go as a family or by yourself. It doesn't necessarily have to be a visit to a home. Maybe there is someone who waits on you at the grocery store. Stop by today and talk with that person. Tell the person you visit one way he or she makes you feel loved.

Thursday, December 23rd, 2021: Before we move on from this Advent season to the "next thing" ...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 to help us never forget His promise to never leave us or forsake us!

Friday, December 24th, 2021: Is there someone you know who needs to hear words of God's love? Make or select a card for that person and mail it today.

(And, if you can, join us tonight for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and spend this Christmas Eve in worship! See you at 5pm!)

Saturday, December 25th, 2021: Merry Christmas! Spend time today thinking about your image of a world overflowing with love. Write your thoughts, or create a picture depicting God's love in the world.