



Advent Week 4 - Love

A Liturgy to Use at Home

This liturgy can be done alone, with friends over Zoom, or as a household/family unit. If you share in it with others, be sure to include everyone (both the youngest and the oldest among you!) in the process. It could easily be used to start or end your day. It could be part of a dinnertime routine. As always, do as you can -- with freedom -- and enjoy!

Read: the scripture for the day from your Advent Link Chain (easy template and directions found here: www.the-river.org/advent/) or from the list below. (They are the same in both places.)

Light: all 4 outer candles in your wreath, the Candles of Hope, of Peace, of Joy, and of Love...

And Pray:

*Generous One,
Thank you for all of the ways we are loved.
Thank you for all of the ways we can love.
Teach us to listen closely to each other,
and to our world,
for all the ways and places love is shared.
Amen.*

Play: Song of the week: [Love Came Down](#)

Reflect:

Pick 1 or 2 each day...or stay with the one(s) you like most!

- When was the last time you were aware of feeling loved by God? What happened? What did you experience?
- How do you most often experience God's love?
- What makes experiencing God's love hard for you?
- How does today's scripture passage speak to you of love?
- Who around you is needing to know the love of God today? How could you be an expression of that love to them?

Scripture for this week

December 20th: Matthew 2:1-2

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."

December 21st: Matthew 2:3-5

When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied.

December 22nd: Matthew 2:7-8

Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."

December 23rd: Matthew 2:9-12

After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

December 24th: Luke 1:32-33

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end.

December 25th: John 1:14 & 1 Timothy 1:17 (You can light the center, Christ candle!)

The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth.

Now to the King Eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.