

**Worship Service**  
**Second Sunday of Advent: LOVE**

**Helpful Elements:**

Christmas hymnal  
Advent stand and electric candles  
Advent banner  
Nativity scene (separate table)

**Welcome:** Welcome! My name is \_\_\_\_ and I'll be leading our worship time today. Today is the second Sunday of Advent. The word "advent" comes from the Latin term "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming," and it's the season when the church remembers and celebrates the coming of Christ to earth, as well as anticipating his return.

The **PURPLE** candle we light today represents **love**. Please pray with me as we open our time together.

**Opening prayer:** God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the center, the focus of our lives  
always, and particularly this Advent time.  
Amen.<sup>1</sup>

**Hymn: Joy to the World**

**(Turn on the candles of Hope, Love – or have someone in the front row "light" them.)** Last week we lit the candle of hope; today we light the candle of love, remembering how the birth of Jesus brought both hope and love into the world.

**Hymns:**

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Advent.htm](http://faithandworship.com/prayers_Advent.htm)

**O Come O Come Emmanuel  
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen  
Angels from the Realms of Glory**

**First reading:** Isaiah 40: 1-5

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

**Hymns:**

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear  
The First Noel**

**Second reading:** 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am

nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

### **Hymns:**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**Interactive Homily:** Let's talk more about love.

- What kinds of love are there?
  - Love of a spouse; a friend; an object; and God's love  
An object: we say we "love" a particular food or painting or piece of music
  - How are they alike? How are they different?
- Scholars have identified four basic kinds of human love:
  - Greek word: Storge ("STOR-gay"): Familiarity, family members, bonded, a natural love and affection, like a love for a child or even a pet.
    - Did you have a pet? How did you feel about it?
  - Greek word: Philia ("FILL-ee-ah"): Friendship, between people who share common values, interests, or activities.
    - Did you have a best friend? What was he or she like?
  - Greek word: Eros ("EH-rose"): Being "in love," romantically.
    - I wonder who here has felt this kind of love? (spouses, couples)
  - Greek word: Agape ("ah-gah-pay"): Unconditional love, God's love – regardless of changing circumstances.
- How well do we do with love? Put your name in the 1 Corinthians 13 passage in place of "love" .... [try this with your own name]
- What is God's love like?
  - Constant; loves us despite our shortcomings; all-encompassing.

- What does the birth of Jesus have to do with God's love?
  - "Because God so loved the world, he sent his only son..." (John 3:16)  
Jesus' birth shows God's great love for us, and Jesus showed God's love in the flesh – to everyone, especially those who didn't feel they deserved it.

... Let's take a moment to silently pray and reflect on God's love.

**(Silent Prayer)** ... Lord, in your love and mercy, hear our prayers. Now let us pray the Lord's prayer together:

**Lord's Prayer:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

### **Hymn: Go Tell it on the Mountain**

**Third Reading:** John 13: various

<sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ...<sup>4</sup> He got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

### **Hymns:**

## **Silent Night**

### **O Holy Night**

#### **Fourth Reading:** Luke 1:26-38: The Birth of Jesus Foretold

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

#### **Hymn:**

#### **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

#### **Closing Blessing:** (Strike bell as you say the word "Lord")

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace. Amen.

#### **Closing Hymns:**

#### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

#### **(optional) Doxology**

---

## 1 John 4:7-12

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.