

SEEKING THE KINGDOM

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

ADVENT READINGS, REFLECTIONS
AND ACTIONS ON HOPE, PEACE, JOY
AND LOVE

WEEK FOUR, LOVE
DECEMBER 20-26

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Advent week 4: Love

Sunday December 20- Light your joy candle

PRAYER

Reading: [John 1:1–14](#) God with us!

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the fathers and mothers of old,
you are our God too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

Response:

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.

Monday December 21- Light your love candle

LEARNING

What does the fourth candle represent? It represents love sent from God through His son, Jesus Christ.

THINK

Love is a big word that gets used in a lot of ways. What are some ways you use the word love?
Love is...
Love is not...

WATCH this video about Love in the bible

<https://youtu.be/slyevQ1LW7A>

READ Jeremiah 31:3,

As with hope, peace, and joy, love is something we both receive and participate in. Without us doing anything, God loves us. Jesus came as a human so he could help us understand this. We are children of LOVE. Because we are so loved, we are invited to live in love. We are invited to love God, love our neighbours, love ourselves and the earth. We have the exciting opportunity to be love-creators, joy-seekers, peace-bringers and hope-lighters, because LOVE (aka God) delights in us. LOVE knows we are imperfect. LOVE knows we can't love as well as she can. But LOVE delights in having us join her in the process of letting the whole world know LOVE.

NOTICE Are there people in the Bible, or people in your life, that help you experience love? Or who show you what God-Love looks like?

Jesus--whenever he spends time with the people that no one wants

Mother Theresa

The meal train, or other ways of providing for someone when they need support

Sunday school leaders

Mom, dad or other adult knowing your favourite meal and making it for you or doing your favourite activity with you

Friends who comfort me when i'm sad

BOOK suggestions

Sleeping with Bread (for teens and adults) or *Making Heart Bread* (for kids) by Matthew Linn, Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn

I am human by Susan Verde and Peter H Reynolds

I am Love by Susan Verde and Peter H Reynolds

<https://youtu.be/yB-oFRRoWMs>

Love the world, Todd Parr <https://youtu.be/9MjBPfHQZ0Y>

Tuesday December 22- Light your love candle

REFLECTION

Light the love candle. Begin by closing your eyes and take 3 deep breaths, in through your nose and out through your mouth.

Recall words or phrases from the bible that talk about love. Jot them down on a piece of paper.

God is love

Love is of God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Love is patient, love is kind...

The gift of love

The greatest of these is love

What do you notice? What do these tell us about the relationship between God and love?

Where there is love, God is present. What signals do you have that love is present?

Draw a heart and divide it up into 5 sections. Assign one word to each section: looks, feels, smells, sounds, tastes. Draw pictures or write words in each section that describe 'signals' that love is present in your experience.

For example, love tastes like my grandma's special bread

Love feels like...

Looks like...

Smells like...

Sounds like...

Tastes like...

Do any of your pictures have to do with someone who is in the room with you? If yes, let them know. How does it feel for them? If you wish, take a picture of your heart and post it on Padlet.

Bring to the mind the people in your life. Do you know of someone who is feeling lonely, sad or angry? Who comes to mind? How can you join the flow of love to this person? Could they use a call, a food drop off, a card, a gift or a text? Reach out in love to someone today, Christmas Eve.

and/or

What about your community? Is there a group, organization or cause you notice and want to support? How can you do that?

and/or

Is love prompting you to action for the greater good of the world? How can we join others to work for justice and restoration in the world? How can we put love into action in a new way?

As you finish, take 3 more deep breaths. Imagine breathing in the love of God, filling your whole body. As you breathe out, imagine love pouring out into the people in the room with you and into the world around you.

Wednesday December 23- Light your love candle

CREATE

Love – Create a card to send to students in a school in Pikangikum, an Ojibwe First Nation community First, read about what's happening in the community, and look for it on a map!

Pikangikum Update...

The Church of the Resurrection community has been involved for the last two years in supporting the Pikangikum First Nations Community. We contributed money towards a project to help obtain a reliable water source to the community in 2018. In 2019, we participated in a drive for winter coats. Here is some updated information about what's going on in the community:

Fear of COVID is great in a remote community where access to medical resources is limited. There was one case in August that has been resolved. Students are all learning in their homes. This is challenging because some homes are not well equipped for families to be at home all day together. So, getting outside for exercise is important. The arena is open for pleasure skating. Elders are using this time to teach traditional food harvesting skills beyond the two-week fall goose and moose hunts. Once the ice is thick and safe, ice fishing is another activity.

There is still some money to help the people of Pikangikum secure a reliable water system. Unfortunately, this project has had some setbacks. One was a lack of electricity, then two forest fire evacuations and now, COVID-19 has continued to delay the project.

Cards for Pikangikum First Nations community can be forwarded to:

Brian Green
Vice Principal
Eenokay Birchstick School
General Delivery
Pikangikum First Nation
Pikangikum, ON P0V 2L0
School Tel. 807-773-5561
Brian Green E-mail: briangreen@ebs-school.org

He will take pictures of the cards and post them on the school's website.

Materials: Card stock (approx. 11 X 7 ") Folded in half to make a card, Magazines, scissors, glue/Mod Podge,

Instructions

For the card front: Find and paste, magazine pictures, or pictures and words that illustrate love and care. Use your own ideas as well. (Bows, ribbon, lace are optional ideas)

For the card inside: Write a message of encouragement and love.



Thursday December 24 – Christmas Eve! Light your love candle.

Check out one of the Christmas Eve Services at Church tonight.

Friday December 25 – Christmas Day. Light ALL your candles, turn on the lights, put baby Jesus in the Nativity set manger. He is here!

Let us be reminded today that the kingdom of God is here. He is here and is moving. Emmanuel, God with us came into the world.

" Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be the glory in all the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen Ephesians 3:20, 21

Have a blessed Christmas!

Further reading, watching or listening for adults and/or kids

Pilgrim year: Advent, Steve bell

Malcolm Guite's Waiting for the Word

Rain for Roots, Waiting Songs