

The Gifts of Christmas: A Guide for Advent at Bethel

Week Four: Love

“...so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

In this final week of advent, we focus on the theme of love, the love God showed the world in sending us his son Jesus Christ. This week we celebrate the gift of love and assurance. God’s love for us is not just for the here and now, but for life eternal. This love keeps us and guards us for forever fellowship with him.

The gift image: *a heart and a cross*, reminding us of God’s great love for us.

Scripture Readings: 1 John 5:13
Romans 8:37-39
John 1:14
1 John 4:9-10
Isaiah 54:10

Questions for reflection:

What do these scripture passages tell us about God’s love?
What does God’s love mean to you?
How are you experiencing God’s love this Advent season?
How can we share the gift of the love of God with others?

Sing or listen to:

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Use this prayer as a guide for your prayers of hope this week:

Father, because of your steadfast love, you sent your Son to rescue us from our sin and brokenness. Remove anything that hinders our love of you. We know that there is no sin too great and that no one is out of reach of your arm that was outstretched on the cross. Fill our hearts with awe and wonder at the riches of your love.

Advent Candle: (Purple)

This week we focus on love. The love shown to us in the Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection. We celebrate that this love is steadfast and everlasting. We wait in the assurance of God’s love for us in Christ.

Say together: *“We light this candle as a symbol of love. We love because you first loved us. Help us to share your love with others.”*

