

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

Family:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,
and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars.
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.
By these stars, they knew God was with them.

People:

Today we light four candles to bring the fire of the stars
down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

Family:

We name this candle Hope. *(light the first candle)*
We name this candle Peace. *(light the second candle)*
We name this candle Joy. *(light the third candle)*
We name this candle Love. *(light the fourth candle)*

People:

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way.
But we chart our path by the star of love.
Even when sharp words rattle in our ears,
and our hearts sit cold and numb,
we set our face steadily towards the light.

Family:

Listen now to the wisdom of the early Christians:
“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.
God’s love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might live through him.
In this is love, not that we loved God
but that he loved us and sent his Son
to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
if we love one another, God abides in us,
and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:7-12).

ALL:

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of love this week,
help us to *become* the signs of love that others are searching for.
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s love. Amen.**