

4th Week of Advent: Love Liturgy

Invocation

O God of Deep Space and Widest Love, we are here in communal worship to honor our awe for this universe that you have created and our reverence for all the mysteries we still don't know or understand. They say the birthplace of stars is called stellar nursery. What if we become such a place here today? What if we give birth to the light within us now? What love shall be shown and what guidance shall be known? Bless this gestational time of Advent, that we may be ready to come alive in the unique ways you have called each of us to be. Amen.

Litany of the Advent Candle

One: Light of Love, we arrive at this final curve of the Advent wreath illumined by the lights we lit in the weeks before.

All: The lights from these wax candles here, yes—but the embers in the sky above too.

One: As poet Ada Limon says, "We're forgetting we're dead stars too...look, we are not unspectacular things."

All: We've come this far, survived this much.

One: What would happen if we decided to survive longer?

All: To love harder?

One: What if we are called to love beyond what we thought possible?

All: What if we are asked to receive beyond what we thought we could hold?

One: Scripture tells us that love is overflowing and everlasting, and so in faith we light this wreath. (Light the four candles)

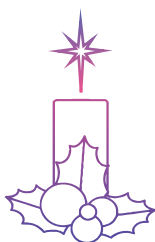
All: We light this circle of love, and we pray that it is reflected in us. Amen.

Prayer of Transformation and Grace

"Let us not speak of the rights of states and kings. Let us speak of the rights of the river and of the child playing in her waters," writes Aleah Black. O God, you are a creator of play, relationship, and belonging. When we have lost our way in the chaotic state of the world, the prisons we have placed in our hearts, the idols we have made that get in the way of your grace, help us to believe in your unfathomable love. Help us return and be in union with you, and craft with us a way of repair. May we turn toward the art of love. Amen.

*"...WHEN THEY SAW THE **STAR**, THEY WERE FILLED WITH **JOY**..."*

MATTHEW 2:10



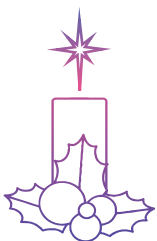
4th Week of Advent: Liturgy of Love

Invitation to the Offering

The economy of the world thrives on making us feel separate, hopeless, divided, and in need of “the powers that be.” This is the love of systemic oppression. This is not the love of God. It is not the economy of the Good News. So, let us find true love as we come to this offering basket, this open table. Let us rejoice in the City of God we are creating here in our midst. May we offer what we can and receive what we need. Let us change the tides, one decision at a time. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

As much as we have our attention on the star and the manger just around the corner—and all that we want to do and say—may we not forget to let love in right now. May the gifts offered here be warmly received as a welcomed guest. May we feel the tenderness that comes from faithful giving. And grant that abundance comes when it is needed the most. Amen.



“...*WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR, THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY...*”

MATTHEW 2:10