

LOVE: The fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020

Light three purple candles and one pink candle today

ADVENT LITANY

Leader: Why light a candle that will burn out?

People: The message of this candle cannot be quenched. It speaks of love: love we do not deserve; love we can never confine; love we can never escape.

Leader: It represents the steadfast love of God, seen in the birth of the Christ Child

People: We light this candle in faith.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

All: Prepare the way of the Lord of Love, Jesus.

Suggested Hymn: Savior of the Nations, Come (#14 in The Presbyterian Hymnal)

The Gospel reading for December 20, 2020:

Luke 1:26-38

1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 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 ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday in Advent:

Gracious Creator, you bring the world forth from your womb. Make your presence known to us, your children, that we may drink deeply from the abundance of your glory. May we be newly born; may we grow to give light to those who dwell in darkest of nights and who sit in the valley of the shadow of death. Amen.