

4th Week of Advent: Liturgy of Love

Litany of the Advent Candle

One: Light of Love, we arrive at this final week of Advent with our hearts ready to welcome in the dawn of Christmas time.

All: Ready for the glory of God's love to shine around us, within us, and in between us.

One: And yet, we also know how that love is always here. So today, we call upon the power of ritual to name this love as a gift.

All: To receive this love as a gift, to give this love as a gift.

One: To celebrate the beauty and life-saving gift of friendship, of partnerships, of relationships

All: To see through these candles, how one illuminates the others, even those that wait to be lit.

One: So let us now feel the warmth of a whole circle of light.

All: May we honor love's presence in our relationships, as we light the way for the Holy Family's journey in our lives today. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

One: Howard Thurman reminds us that, "our only responsibility is to love. Whether we are loved back. Whether love becomes productive in ways we can measure, this, is not our business."

All: "The nature of love, is to love."

One: Even though we are created as God's beloved, we are complex creatures who forget, don't know how, or get tired of the responsibility of love and loving. Sometimes it's a struggle to even want to want what is good for us, like love.

All: At times we mistake love for something else, too, or are too experienced with its lack that we have lost our way.

One: Forgive and guide us, Beloved One, in our journey of what needs healing in our ways of love and loving. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Though our thoughts, feelings, and actions can be a mess in the realms of love—you, O God, have it together. You are ever faithful and present and longing to be united with us and our flourishing. Praise be, this extraordinary thing, to be created by and for love. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Paul tells us that if we give away all our possessions so that we may boast but do not have love, we gain nothing. We have nothing, if we do not have love. So, as we bring this Advent season to a close, may we offer up what we are called to offer here with love. May we not speed through this moment or this week right past the gift of love in this worship. Heart of the Divine, grant us the power of our connection with you to lead us to this altar of freedom by way of these gifts. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

We dedicate these gifts not only with our intention, but with our loving attention. Isn't that the heart of prayer? So let us take a moment to really notice what we offer here together today. Let us truly partake in the practice of devotion. O God of Love and Loving, receive these gifts of the altar and from the ground of our being. Amen.



"...THE **GLORY OF GOD** SHONE AROUND THEM..."

LUKE 2:9