



ADVENT 2016

WEEK TWO: THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Opening Liturgy: Based on Psalm 136:1-3; 23-26

L: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

All: His love endures forever.

L: Give thanks to the God of gods.

All: His love endures forever.

L: Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

All: His love endures forever.

L: to the One who remembered us in our low estate

All: His love endures forever.

L: and freed us from our enemies,

All: His love endures forever.

L: and who gives food to every creature.

All: His love endures forever.

L: Last week we remembered that Christmas is about God giving us hope. This week we are reminded that Christmas exists because God loves us. John chapter 3:16 and 17 says *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.* Christmas is a great opportunity to stop and remember that God loves you, and everyone else....As His disciples God calls us

not to hold onto this love only for ourselves, but to generously share it so others may know and experience His love. In John chapter 13:34 and 35 Jesus says *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

(Light the Candle of Hope)

L: As we light the candle of love.... Remember that God loves you and everyone else. Christmas is about God's gift of love, coming to us through Jesus Christ Think about how much God loves you this Christmas.

(Light the Candle of Love
and Pause for a time of meditation)

Think about how you can take God's love and share it with others.

(Pause for a time of meditation)

All: GOD OF ALL LOVE, your love for me and for the whole creation is beyond anything I can imagine. Your thoughts are not my thoughts, and your ways are not my ways. But the immensity of your love does not frighten me; it encourages me.

I give you myself today as completely as I can, knowing that the experience of your love will create an even greater openness to you in the days to come.

Choose for me the best expression of your love as I live today, and I will gladly receive it, as well as seek to find ways to share your love with my family, to share your love with my community and to share your love with people around the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

L: My friends, this Advent, slow down, listen to God's voice, and focus on what's important – waiting, hoping and sharing the true meaning of this season.