

REMEMBERING CHRIST'S FIRST COMING, WHILE LONGING FOR HIS SECOND

Advent



THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT; THOSE WHO DWELT IN A LAND OF DEEP DARKNESS, ON THEM HAS LIGHT SHONE. - ISAIAH 9:2



LOVE'S DEEP WELL

THE LOVE CANDLE | The fourth candle of advent is the Candle of Love, which plays a central role in the Christmas story. Love prompted Joseph not to throw stones at Mary when he found out she was pregnant (with what he must have thought was a child out of wedlock with another man). Mary loved her baby, and God loved the world through that baby. *“For God so loved the world He sent His Son!”* During His days on earth, Jesus taught His disciples that the two greatest commands were to 1) Love God, and 2) Love Your Neighbor.

The deep desire & cry of every heart is to be loved. Maybe that’s because, at His very core, God is love. Of course, we may have heard God is love, and agree that is true, but we still struggle at times with believing how deeply we are loved by God and how deeply we are to love others.

READ & RESPOND | 1 John 4

- How has God demonstrated that He is love?
- How can a person know God and experience that love?
- From vv8-15, what do you learn about the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- How does the message that “God’s love drives out fear” relate to the teaching in 1 john 1:5, that God is light?
- What is the connection between God’s love for us and the love we are to have for others? Is it an action or a feeling? What does this tell you about love itself?
- In your life, when has “love” held too much fear? Is there a time or situation in which God’s love casts out fear for you?
- How can you renew your commitment to love others this week?

The world is seeking for love in many places. When we embrace God’s love and express real, giving love to others, we reveal our God to a love starved world. The passage we read tells us: **1) Love is from God** (v7), **2) Love helps people trust Jesus** (v15), **3) Love causes life to flourish** (v18), and **4) According to 1 john 4:16, Love is found by abiding in God.** Here’s a hard statement: *“if I do not know love and do not love others, I must not be abiding.”* Think about that statement, then read verse 16 together: ***“We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. GOD IS LOVE, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”***

Don’t forget to join the Legacy Church Christmas Eve services, either in-person or online. During that time, we will end our service as we traditionally do, by singing “Silent Night” and lighting the Christ candle. If you are joining us from your home, be sure to have a candle ready to participate!

PRAY | Lord, thank you for loving us. Let us continue to see you, and grow in knowing how Your nature defines what love really is. May we abide in you, so that your love would save and transform our co-workers, our friends, our neighbors, and our world. Amen.