



# Advent Worship Service for Families

## Fourth Week of Advent – Peace

### Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve — December 24, 2017

*Light the four candles on your wreath and read together the following meditation:*

**First Reader:** This is the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve. Today, we light the four purple candles. (OR three purple candles and the pink candle). The first Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of love. On the third Sunday, we lit the candle of joy. Today, we light the candle of peace. Our world is not always a peaceful world. People hurt other people. Countries are at war today. People don't take care of the world. People yell and scream at other people. But God promises peace. During Advent, we pray that we, as well as all people, will seek God's peace.

**Second Reader:** When we look at the fourth candle, we remember God's promise of peace. We recall the words of Jesus in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." In times of war and hatred, it's hard to remember that Jesus is the one who brings peace. As we approach Christmas, let's remember that God's intention is a place of peace where people shake hands instead of harm one another.

**First Reader:** Read **Luke 1:47-55**. In the Scripture, we hear Mary's song of praise. There must have been times when Mary was frightened, worried, fearful, and sad. She may not have felt very peaceful as she considered her future. Yet her words help us see the peace that comes when we trust in God.

**Discussion:** How privileged we are to have this beautiful song of Mary. Can you imagine her singing the words written in Scripture? It is a testimony to her faith at being chosen as God's servant. And because she embraces God's future for her, she faces the future with the assurance of God's peace. Who are the people in our world who need God's peace? What are our hopes for peace in our world today? How do we help others know God's desire for peace in our world?

**Prayer:** Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for those in our world today who seek to act for peace. Help us look for ways to be peacemakers at home, at church and at school. Amen.

*Read together* **Luke 2:1-20**.

At the time when Jesus was born, shepherds weren't considered to be very important. They had important work to do, but they weren't people that others might necessarily invite to their homes. Yet they were invited to meet the baby Jesus.

Are there people in your family or community who might not be invited to a Christmas celebration this year? Join hands together. Name those who come to mind that on this Christmas Eve are alone and forgotten. Together, think of a way you can recognize and remember some of the forgotten people. Together, pray for the forgotten people in your home, your church, or your community.