

Advent Puzzle Project
12/20/2020 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent
LOVE

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. As we move through the calendar year, the church has divided the year into “festival” time and “ordinary time.” In festival time we remember the life of Jesus. In ordinary time we consider what Jesus taught about how to live our lives with each other.

In Advent, we are remembering the time before Jesus came to earth, when the world was waiting for the Savior that had been promised to Adam and Eve. Despite the pain and violence and wielding of power in harmful ways in this imperfect world, Advent is a time when we realize that all along God has loved us. Completely, utterly, without reservation, and regardless of what we do.

This love is not something romantic or even some positive feeling based on how much we like and benefit from another person’s actions. This love is a complete, constant, all-the-time love that does not depend on us but depends only on God. This love is something we cannot understand. It is irrationally sacrificial and also irrationally giving and joyful and calls us to be fully ourselves. This is the kind of love that would lead to God coming to live among us, as a human being, even though all our trifling human madness is completely unnecessary for God. This is the love that was shown in the Resurrection, and the love that frees us to love each other – even when everything and everyone around us would seem to be calling us to something else.

This year for Advent we invite you to puzzle through with us. Each week we will add another piece to the puzzle until we find, on Christmas, the announcement of the hope that we consider this week.

Decorate the puzzle piece on the next page with your image of that kind of peace – the peace of wholeness. Use colors or construction paper, feathers or small rocks or sticks. Make it your piece of hope. For best results, cut out the piece on the outside of the outline to finish your piece of the puzzle.

When you have finished, take a picture of your decorated puzzle piece and sent it to us at southdurhamconnections@gmail.com. We will put them up on our website each week so that those who visit the website will see all the different ways that our community envisions hope.

You will get a reply email when your picture is posted with the website address and how you can see your picture and that of others who are participating in the community Advent Puzzle Project.

Now... on to building the joy part of our puzzle:

LOVE

