

COSSO SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A DEVOTION FOR WEEK 2 OF ADVENT: LOVE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare to welcome God!

A distant star glitters in the sky: COME, JESUS, COME.

A bright beacon lights up the way: COME, JESUS, COME.

The love of the Son brightens a gloomy day: COME, JESUS, COME.

OPENING PRAYER TO ADVENT

Bright God of Advent, come into our lives. Light up our way and rekindle in us your desire for justice and peace, that we may scatter the ashes that keep us from embracing your love. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: Linking us together

Advent candle lighting is traditional in the church but not often used in the home. During these Covid Times, this tradition may help us feel connected to our faith and to each other. Candles may be separate or in an Advent wreath.

(Adapted from a series in the Christian Reformed Church, www.reformedworship.org).

Reflection for Greeting Advent with Love

We light the second Advent candle, the candle of love, as we look to the coming of Jesus, who brings us love now and forever. In scripture we read, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."
(1 John 4:7)

Prayer: Dear God, we love you because we know that you first loved us. As we light this candle, help us to love each other, knowing your hope invites us to be hope for others, knowing your love invites us to love others. Amen.

Pause: Spend a few moments reflecting on a time when you experienced the love of God in your spiritual journey.

For more devotional time: Read Genesis 33:1-17, the story of Jacob's return to Esau and the gracious spirit in which Esau received him. Continue to reflect on ways the love of Christ has been shown to you through your ministry with others.

Additional Readings: Ruth 4:1-12; 1 Samuel 20; 2 Samuel 9

SONG "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" by the Piano Guys

<https://youtu.be/iO7ySn-Swwc>

GOING FORTH

During this time of Advent,

may you expect God to come into your life.

And while you wait,

may the spirit move within you, fill you with love,

and strengthen your faith to love and serve others.