

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is the last Sunday in the Advent season. Each week for the past three weeks, I lit a candle on the Advent wreath. The first was the candle of **hope**. The second was the candle of **peace**. The third was the candle of **joy**. And today, I will light the fourth candle, the candle of **love**.

Jesus Christ is our **hope** in the darkness. As the words in Evening Prayer state, "Jesus is the light of the world, no darkness shall overcome." No darkness, no evil, nothing can overcome our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Prince of **Peace**. In a broken world, a world with fighting among and between nations and peoples, Jesus brings us peace. Jesus calls us to seek justice and peace throughout the world.

Jesus Christ brings **joy**. In an Advent hymn, we sing, "Joy to the World; the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!" For Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Jesus Christ brings **love**. We recall these words from the poem, "Love Came Down at Christmas," by Christina Rossetti.

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.  
Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love Divine...

For Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners, including us! Jesus came to earth to atone for the sins of all humanity. Jesus came to earth, so that the world would know the **hope, peace, joy and love** that only the Christ child could bring. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy