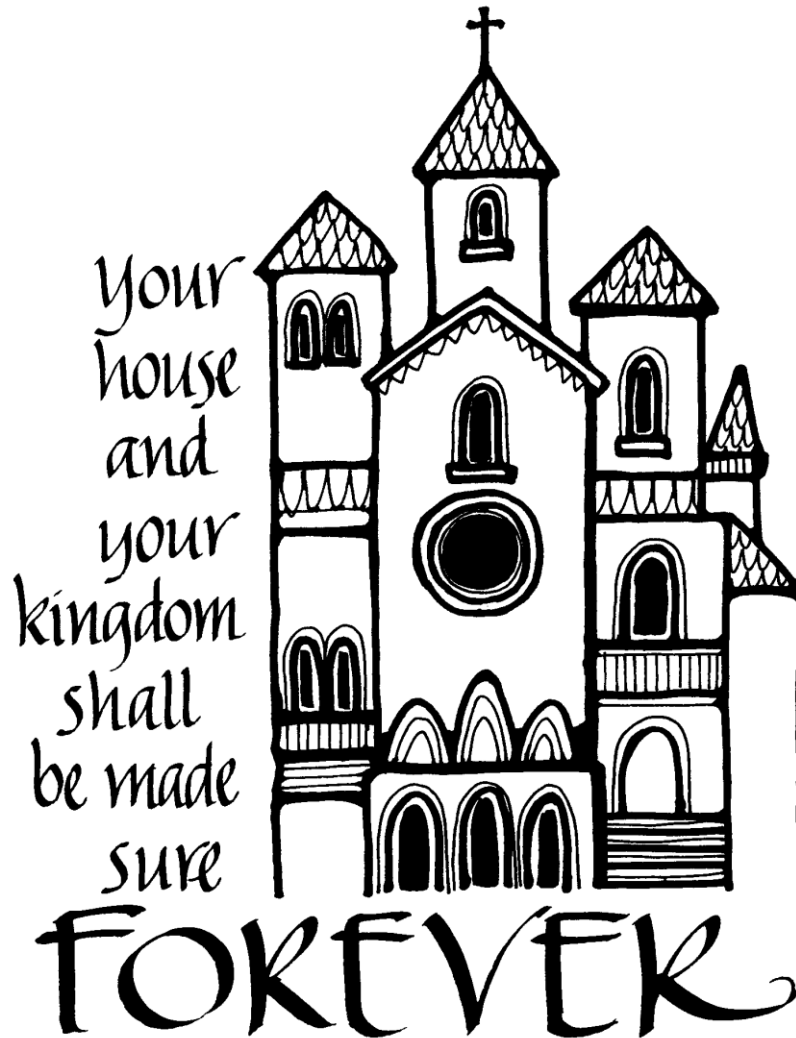


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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2 S A M U E L 7 : 1 6

*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2020**

**December 20, 2020**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Silence for the lighting of the altar candles*

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**ADVENT WREATH PRAYER: ADVENT 4**

**P:** We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

*Light four candles.*

**PRAYER BELL RINGS** (*Pastor rings the pulpit bell twice.*)

**P:** To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ,

**C: be glory forever and ever.**

*Please stand as you are able for the . . .*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;  
we have not loved our neighbor;**

**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

† comforted by Christ's peace,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

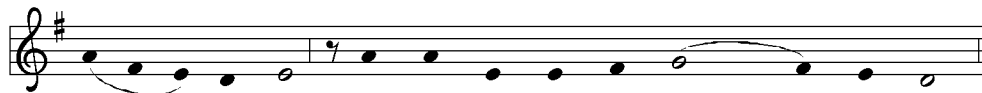
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257) verses 1&2

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. May we, with Mary, sing your praises and magnify your name. As we worship, renew our vision that we may do your will.**

**In your name we pray.**

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from 2 Samuel.

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

(Read responsively between men and women, beginning with the men)

<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;**  
**you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>"I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

<sup>4</sup>**I will establish your | line forever,**  
**and preserve your throne for all | generations."**

<sup>19</sup>You spoke once in a vision and said to your | faithful people:

"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out | of the people.

<sup>20</sup>**I have found Da- | vid my servant;  
with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.**

<sup>21</sup>My hand will | hold him fast  
and my arm will | make him strong.

<sup>22</sup>**No enemy | shall deceive him,  
nor shall the wicked | bring him down.**

<sup>23</sup>I will crush his | foes before him  
and strike down | those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup>**My faithfulness and steadfast | love are with him,  
and he shall be victorious | through my name.**

<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand | on the sea,  
and his right hand | on the rivers.

<sup>26</sup>**He will say to me, 'You | are my father,  
my God, and the rock of | my salvation.'**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

A reading from Romans.

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and moving lines.

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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## GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Bill**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* (ELW 251)**

**My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness**



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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*Please stand as you are able.*

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *(Please respond.)*

*P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please remain standing.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

# SENDING SONG *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SILENT PRAYER

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## SERVING TODAY

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Church Office Email Address: [office@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org)

Organist – Doug Mummert

Head Usher – Bonney Coldsmith

Acolyte – Sarah Aldrich

Lector – Rich McEntire

Attendance last Sunday – 29

**Stewardship Thought - December 20, 2020** (Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B)

*“For nothing will be impossible with God.” – Luke 1:37*

*This Sunday we celebrate Mary’s faithfulness and willingness to do God’s will. This brave young woman hears the angel’s words and believes. As a faithful steward, what possibilities do you see for our community and congregation?*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God and in loving memory of departed loved ones given by Clif and Carole Rau.

**Welcome Visitors!** We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

**2021 Altar Flowers Chart**—Kimberly will **not** be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! **Flowers will now be purchased from Royer’s Florist in Chambersburg. Please note the price will change to \$35.** For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

**Prayer requests** for the following persons: *Jerry and Peggy Tyson, Sue Ressler, Eva Stahl, David McEntire, Clayton Schwartz and the Quincy Village Residents, Amos Egolf, Dee Dee Fox, Jody Swartz, Quentin, Linda Small Naus, Lee Locke, Barbara Socks, Denise Bowen, Jack Hess, Sylvia Wenger, Patsy Wagner, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, family of Karen Sanders, Jackson, Bonnie Hudson.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

**Every January a new church directory** listing the names, phone numbers, and addresses of all Solomon's members is published by the church office. If your contact information has changed since publication of the 2020 directory, please let Kimberly know by December 31st.

**Power Packs:** With school back in session, the Power Packs program has now resumed. Currently, eight families have been identified at New Franklin Elementary School in need of food assistance. You can donate vegetable or fruit cups like last year. Donations of cash are also welcome if you are unable to shop or attend church due to the pandemic.

**Candy Fundraiser--** We do have some candy left to sell so please call Zoe at 717-267-1777 (home) or 717-264-9598 (work). You can also call Kimberly at the Church Office: 717-267-2266.

Poinsettias will be in the church on December 24. If you will not be attending church on Dec 24, you can make arrangements to pick up your flowers by calling the church office.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service**

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship with Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.**

**\*\*Please note that while we are planning to hold Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Worship,**

**the uncertainty of the pandemic means there is a possibility plans could change.**

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

**Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes** are available in the library for anyone to read.

DECEMBER 20, 2020  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*God has good news for all people.*



**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 1:26-38</b>	<b>The birth of Jesus foretold</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</b>	<b>The Lord's message to David</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 16:25-27</b>	<b>Paul's closing prayer</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Luke 1:46b-55</b>	<b>Mary's song of praise</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Luke 2:1-20</b>	<b>The birth of Jesus</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>John 3:11-16</b>	<b>For God so loved the world</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26</b>	<b>God's promise to David</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 2:22-40</b>	<b>Jesus presented in the temple</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:30-31 (NRSV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord God, just as you favored your servant Mary, grant all of us faith and trust in your power to bring salvation to all through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

With this food we receive your steadfast love, O Lord; with our mouths we proclaim your faithfulness to all generations through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:1)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the love of God bless you with the good news of Jesus' birth.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home or small group or use for personal reflections:

- **When have you received special attention from friends or family?**
- **Think of someone you have valued as a friend. In what ways do you value them?**
- **The angel Gabriel describes Mary as favored. What does it mean to you that God has given the world our Savior and Lord Jesus through Mary, a young peasant girl?**

## **HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Wait for the Lord*



## **DEVOTIONS**

*Read: Luke 1:26-38.*

In verses 28 and 30 the angel Gabriel says that Mary is favored, that is, Mary experiences the undeserved kindness of God. In Luke 2:40 and 52 the child Jesus is also described as favored. Divine attention comes to a young virgin to deliver Jesus, the Son of the Most High. The beginning of the Gospel of Luke tells of Elizabeth, a barren woman who gives birth, Mary, a peasant girl who gives birth to the future king in the lineage of David, and of shepherds in the field who will be the first evangelists of the good news of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:18). The message is clear: with God all things are possible, and as with Mary, our faithful response is, "let it be with me according to your word" (v. 38). Mary is the model of the life of faith that acknowledges that God has done great things for her. As we prepare to enter the season of Jesus' birth, we are met with God's favor and blessings for us as well. How has God come to you with divine favor?

*Pray:* God of undeserved kindness, give us faith to trust that with you all things are possible through Christ Jesus our Lord, Son of the Most High God. Amen.

## **SERVICE**

During this Advent season think of those who are not favored in our society. For example, the homeless are poor, hungry, and in need. In what ways can you show God's love to them through an act of kindness?

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

From your nativity set, hold each piece in silence for a moment. Then place the pieces back in the scene. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and then the wise men. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope, the second one of peace, the third one of joy, and the fourth one of love. Say this Bible verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16) *Pray:* Lord God, thank you for showing us love even when we are afraid like Mary, the mother of Jesus. Give us hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.