



The Advent Wreath  
A Liturgy for Lighting the Fourth Candle: Love  
DaySpring Baptist Church

*Greeting (Recite Howard Thurman's poem together or each person in turn reads a line.)*

**I Will Light Candles This Christmas**

Candles of joy, despite all sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that burn all the year long.

*Praying with the Psalmist*

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**Your steadfast love is forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

"I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

"I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

**Your steadfast love is forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;  
my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.  
The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

**Your steadfast love is forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.  
He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

**Amen**

*Lighting the First and Second Purple Candles, the Pink Candle, and the Fourth Purple Candle*

**May the Hope of Christ shine in our hearts.  
May the Faith of Christ shine in our hearts.  
May the Joy of Christ shine in our hearts.  
May the Love of Christ shine in our hearts.**

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Family storytelling is a wonderful way for children to find themselves in the story of God. Below are dinnertime conversation prompts that intersect with the Godly Play stories the 3-year-olds through 4<sup>th</sup> graders are hearing and the adult formation class:

1. How do prophets listen to God so that they could point the way to Bethlehem? How do we listen to one another?
2. Who has been a prophet in our family or in our church who points the way to racial reconciliation?
3. Mary and Joseph made a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What long journeys have we taken as a family and how did we prepare? When has anyone in our family been brave on a journey?
4. How do our conversations at DaySpring about race intersect with our family's journey?
5. Whom do we know of a different race from us and what family traditions have we learned from them?
6. This morning you heard about the shepherds coming to Bethlehem to see Jesus. I remember who came to see you when you were born...
7. I remember rejoicing when...
8. This year has been hard for a lot of people and for us. Let's remember how it's been hard for others and for us and praise God for the ways God has relieved suffering.
9. How is God prompting us to use our gifts to bring about healing between races and racial reconciliation?
10. What does it mean to be a minister of reconciliation? When is a time reconciliation has happened between our family members?

[Benefits of Family Story Telling](#)