

Love



St Aidan's Uniting Church
21st December 2025
Advent 4

Call to Worship

There is history in our Advent-tide:
a promise spoken through the Prophets;
awaiting love to draw near;
angels in dreams whispering hope.

Then there is history in our waiting,
for Immanuel- God is with us,
yesterday, today and tomorrow
grounded in every act of love that transforms.

Come and be part of the story in making.

We come to worship the One who is Love made flesh.

Candle

This is the hope candle.

It is a candle that shines brightly in darkness,
and shares its light generously.

This is the peace candle.

When the angels sang "peace on earth,"
they sang of how far its light will shine.

This is the joy candle.

When we know that what we experience now,
is not the end of the story,
we have joy.

This is the love candle.

Without our first being loved,
it is hard to share God's love;
sharing the candle flame
to light another candle,
does not diminish the light we already have,
but rather it creates more light –
so too, sharing love
creates more love in our world.

We light the candle of love.

Prayers

We give thanks to you God for all you have given us.

We focus on your immense love shown through Jesus.

With love we will illuminate darkness bring Peace and Joy to our lives and those of others.

O Shepherd of Israel,
leading Joseph like a flock, listen;
seated upon the Cherubim, shine forth,
before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.
Stir up your strength
and come for our salvation.

O God, restore the life we once knew,
let your face shine that we may be saved.

O LORD, God of hosts,
how long will you fume at your people's prayers?
You have fed us tears for bread,
and given us tears to drink by the flagon.
You have made us a disgrace among our neighbours,
and our enemies ridicule us among themselves.
O God, restore the life we once knew,
let your face shine that we may be saved.

God, we confess that at times we have fallen short in our thoughts and actions. We have failed to be loving or caring of others. Failed to be faithful or to be good stewards of the earth, its beauty and resources provided to us.

We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness when we haven't lived the way Jesus taught us. Fill our hearts with love to share with others.

God is loving and we know that we are forgiven:
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

The Menorah represents the light of God in the world. The six outer branches represent the six branches of secular knowledge – physics, philosophy, astronomy, medicine, music, and mathematics. The inner-most light, the candle that gives its light to all the others represents the light of God.

We light the central candle and pray for the places that need to know the light of God at this time.

Let us light a candle and pray for the Jewish community in Australia, especially as they feel unsafe.

Let us light a candle and pray for all countries where innocent people are killed, whether this is by individuals or governments.

Let us light a candle and pray for the countries who receive aid via the Christmas bowl.

Let us light a candle and pray for people who are grieving.

Let us light a candle and pray for those who are struggling at Christmas.

Let us light a candle and pray for the people who are forgotten.

Prayer after Communion

**God of love, we give you thanks
for satisfying us with this meal.**

**Send us from here
to reveal your love in the world.**

**Inspire us to use our words
to point others to Emmanuel,
God with us.**

**Inspire in us the resolve and the courage,
the compassion and passion
to do justice, love kindness
and walk humbly with you.**

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

We are the people of hope, and God sends us
to gather the scattered and help heal the broken.

We are the people of peace, bringing peace and justice
when the world needs reminding of a different way.

We are the people of joy, a call to live with the joy
of knowing that what is, is not the end.

We are a people of love: sharing love
and so spreading love through our world.

And take that love, live that love, so the people around you,
may too, know love in their lives.

Go knowing that God is with you,
beside you, before you –
God the Parent, Christ, and Spirit.

Amen.