

4th Sunday in Advent

Al West: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Al West & Congregation (Unison): How does this happen?

Al West: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

Al West & Congregation (Unison): Purify us, O God, by your daily visitation, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes, he will find in us a mansion prepared for himself. We thank you for this time of waiting. We thank you that our time of waiting for Jesus is almost over. May we await the Light of the World with joyful anticipation, through Christ our Lord.

Al West: A reading from the prophet Micah: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore, will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now, shall he be great unto the ends of the earth. And this man shall be the peace..." (Micah 5:2-5a).

Al West & Congregation (Unison): We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Each Sunday during Advent, we have begun in the dark, and then we have lit candles. Today, we light the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.

Deacon Family Member Donna Phillips

(Lighting of the Candles)

(Lighting the 1 Pink Candle AND 3 Purple Candles)

Al West: Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of Jesus. Now, at the end of Advent, all four candles burn bright with the hope of God who will come to us.

Al West & Congregation (Unison): Our time of waiting is almost over. Blessed are we who, with Mary and Elizabeth, believe there will be a fulfillment of God's promise to us. May we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. When he comes to us, may we be ready to help him scatter the proud, bring down the powerful, lift up the lowly. May God fill the hungry with good things. May all of God's people know fullness, justice, peace and love when the Light shines its brightness over our world, when the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.