

Christmas Greetings 2017

Do you have traditions that have become part of your preparations for Christmas? Are there particular carols or songs you love to hear leading up to Christmas? Are there certain recipes that remind you of Christmas gatherings with family and friends?

One of the traditions I treasure within worship at this time of year is the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath leading up to Christmas Eve. The candles symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love and remind us of God's blessings and presence in our lives.

I invite you to gather for worship on Christmas Eve as we celebrate Jesus' birth. On Sunday, December 24th we will light the fourth Advent candle symbolizing love at the 10 am service. We will have a Family Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm as well as a service at 9 pm with communion. We gather in the glow of the Advent candles and light the Christ Candle as a reminder of God's loving presence with us. It is my prayer that we will take time to ponder anew God's gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Let us join our voices together to sing familiar carols and may hearing the story of Jesus' birth evoke a sense of wonder and awe within our hearts.

I'm aware that we all have our own joys and sorrows that we carry in our hearts as we approach Christmas. Let us remember that in the baby born in Bethlehem, God came to be with us, to be our light and our hope in all times and place.

May this prayer guide us as we open our hearts and minds to the wonder of Christ's birth:

Loving God,
May we celebrate the coming of Jesus today and every day. May we know the joy of the angels, the wonder of the wise men, the excitement of the shepherds and the faith of Mary and Joseph. We thank you for Jesus, God with us. Amen.
(Seasons of the Spirit 2017)

Wishing you joy and peace this Christmas!

Blessings,
Lynda