

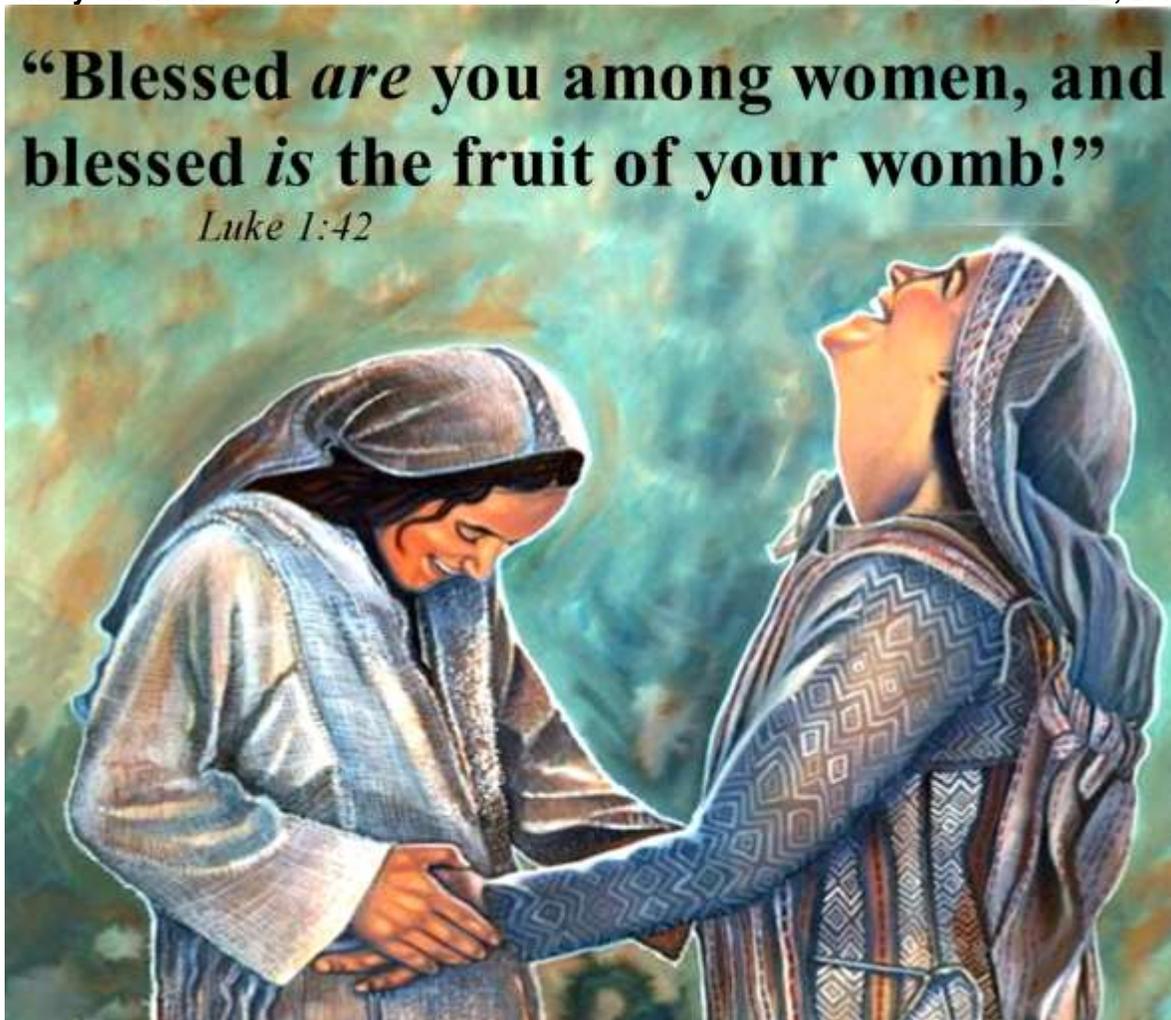
Living Word Lutheran Church

The 4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

**“Blessed *are* you among women, and
blessed *is* the fruit of your womb!”**

Luke 1:42



PASTOR: The Rev. Eric Hullstrom

Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9 am at the Meridian Habitat & Community Center

(Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study available during the school year)

14422 Meridian East Puyallup, WA 98374

LWLC Office: 11707 101st Ave E, Bldg B 253-445-4292 Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm, M-F

Mailing address: PO Box 732005 Puyallup, WA 98373

www.LivingWordLutheranChurch.com

Mission Statement: “We, God’s people of Living Word Lutheran Church, grounded in Holy Scripture, are called to follow and share the inspired Word of God in Christ, to live as faithful and obedient servants, reaching out to all people with the love of Jesus Christ.”

Motto: “Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Word Alone.”

Affiliated with LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

ANNOUNCEMENTS/December 23-29, 2018

This week's activities:

Sunday	9:00 am 10:15 am 3:00-6:00 pm	Worship Service Coffee Hour Christmas Open House at the home of Pastor Eric and Connie.
Monday	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 
Tuesday		 Christmas Day Our Savior is born!
Wednesday		Office closed
Thursday-Friday		Office hours 9 am-noon

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Irene Feller in honor of her family.

Today's Worship Assistants

Set up/Tear Down (Team 2) *No tear down, leave for Christmas Eve service- Al Auge, Ron Heilman, Gary Gjerstad, Joe Burdick, Jim Gronhovd, Daryl Olson, Ron Johnson, Larry Vollmer; **Ushers**- Carole Williams-Wood, Zale Wood; **Acolyte**-Olivia Vashchenko; **Lector**-Dick Schmidt; **Communion Set-up/takedown**- Sharlene Parker, Valerie Claiborne; **Communion Assistants**- Sharlene Parker, Bob & Nancy Martin; **Comm. Bread**-Gayla Fenimore; **Sound System**-Andy Anderson; **Tellers** -Linda Kupka, Al Auge; **Coffee Hour**- Gaye Anderson, Judy Williams; **Altar Setup/Take Down**- Kitty Jepsen, Mary Vollmer; **Parking Lot**- Tom Groce; **Julian Estates**
Worship Leaders- Dave & Judy Ostendorf;



To the members and friends of Living Word Lutheran Church
You are cordially invited to an 'Open House'
at the home of Pastor Eric & Connie
TODAY from 3:00 to 6:00 pm
212 Johns St. E., Orting (507)841-1765
We look forward to hosting you for an afternoon of
hors d'oeuvres, treats and fellowship.



Christmas Eve Worship Assistants-doors open at 4 pm for setup

Set up/take down-Volunteers please!!!

Ushers -Lorraine Stargel, Don Brennan; **Acolyte**-Viviana Vashchenko; **Lector**-Ardene Bartness;
Communion Set-up/takedown (Intinction)- Nancy Martin; **Communion Assistants**- Al Auge, Nancy Martin, Chat Poomnikom;
Comm. Bread-Lonna Groce; **Sound System**- Bill Zavadil; **Tellers**-Bob Martin, Al Auge;
Altar Setup/Take Down- Kitty Jepsen; **TBD**; **Parking Lot**-Ron Johnson

December 30th Worship Assistants

Set up/Tear Down (Team 1)- Bill Zavadil, Andy Anderson, Skip Whelan, Dennis Krumwiede, Rick Fields, Alex Burdick, Gary Heintz;
Ushers- Sharlene Parker & Ron Johnson; **Acolyte**-Hannah Vashchenko; **Lector**-Lori Schmidt;
Communion Set-up/takedown- Lorraine Stargel, Barbara Gjerstad; **Communion Assistants**- Lorraine Stargel, Sharon Johnson, Carol Williams-Wood; **Comm. Bread**-Gayla Fenimore; **Sound System**-Joe Burdick; **Tellers** -Morgan Olson, Judy Krumwiede;
Coffee Hour- Sharlene Parker, Sharon Johnson; **Altar Setup/Take Down**- Jan Halverson, Kitty Jepsen;
Parking Lot-Dennis Krumwiede; **Julian Estates Worship Leaders**-Tony & Linda Deas

Please silence all electronic devices, including cell phones, upon entering the sanctuary.

Living Word Lutheran Church

Order for Worship

When you hear the bell, please be seated for the announcements.

Announcements

Please sign the attendance register and pass it down the row.

Our worship begins with the prelude. "Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus, let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe." (Hebrews 12:28)

Prelude

Opening Hymn

"Lord, You are Love"

ALL- 1. Lord, You are love, and we are Your chil - dren,
 WOMEN- 2. Lord, You are love, and we are Your bod - y.
 MEN- 3. Lord, You are love and pa-tience and kind - ness.

Called to Your fam - ily, drawn to Your heart.
 Shar - ing Your life, ex - tend - ing Your hand.
 Glad to for - give, so eag - er to bless.

One with Your Son, our goal is Your glo - ry.
 Help us to reach with ten - der com - pas - sion,
 You give Your all in joy - ful a - ban - don.

We live to prove how lov - ing You are!
 Read - y to give what love may de - mand.
 Help us, O Lord, to do noth - ing less!

REFRAIN - -ALL

Fa-ther Cre - a - tor, Shep-herd and Sav - ior,
 Ev - er with - in You guide and re - new.
 Help us to fol - low, trust-ing Your Spir - it,
 Spend - ing our days com - plete - ly in You.

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We Worship with Confession.

Pastor: Remembering our baptism into Christ Jesus, we gather as we are to live in the name of the Father, and of the (I) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Congregation: Amen.

P: Beloved in the LORD, let us draw near with faithful hearts and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD. **C: Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my sins unto the LORD. **C: May God forgive the offense of my sin.**

P: (facing altar which symbolizes God's presence): *Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, C: we confess to You that we are by nature sinners and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, pleading for and seeking Your grace for the sake of our LORD Jesus Christ.*

(Silence for personal reflection and self-examination.)

P: *Most merciful God... C: You have given Your only begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us, and for Jesus' sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.*

P: (facing the congregation declares God's grace): Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for Jesus' sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on Jesus' Name, He gives power to become children of God and bestows on them His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O LORD, unto us all. **C: Amen.**

All: Praise the LORD!

We are sent to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19). We begin by sharing the peace of the LORD with one another.

Cantors sing verses 1-3, Congregation sings responsively the refrain.

Cantors: Vs 1- In our arrogance and pride We come to You. In our weakness and our guilt, We look to You.

Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.

Cantors: Vs 2- In our trouble and our pain We come to You. In our darkness and our grief, We look to You.

Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.

Cantors: Vs 3- Mighty God of love and power We come to You. You are here, and You are now. We look to You.

Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.

P: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Glory to God

Congregation: (Refrain)

**Glory to God in the highest, Sing! Glory to God!
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on Earth!**

Verse 1: *Lord, God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father;
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory! C: (Refrain)*

Verse 2: *Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer! C: (Refrain)*

**Verse 3: Women: For You alone are the Holy One,
Men: You alone are the Lord, the Most High, Jesus Christ,
All: with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father! C: (Refrain)**

P (spoken): *The LORD be with you.*

C: (spoken): ***And also with you.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY (All pray):

Holy God, stir in us a holy desire for the coming of Your son, Jesus Christ, so much so, that it overflows for the world to see. May this holy joy glorify You and stir in others a desire to seek the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

We Hear and Read God's Word

A Liturgy of Light

Pastor: Today we come to the last Sunday of Advent. And we recall the many times we have been here before with still so much to do and so much love left unexpressed. The prophet Jeremiah tells us of the love of God which is everlasting, which endures all things, and which is always there for you to receive. God's love is our hope, our peace, and our joy. God's love is the word of salvation we share with the world. Now, hear God's Word for this fourth Sunday of Advent:

ALL: God's love endures forever. In a world where so many are searching for love, and where love is so imperfectly expressed, God's love is the one reality on which we can truly rely. We therefore open our hearts listening for God's expression of that love.

"Ancient Words"

This reading is from The Book of Micah, the 5th chapter (ESV)

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength
of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

(Here ends this reading.)

LWLC Choir

"Let Us Dance and Sing

This reading is from the Book of Psalms, the 80th Psalm.

(to be read responsively)

Reader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.
Congregation: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

R: ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
C: stir up your might and come to save us!

R: ³ Restore us, O God;
C: let your face shine, that we may be saved!

R: ⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
C: how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

R: ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears
C: and given them tears to drink in full measure.

R: ⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
C: and our enemies laugh among themselves.

R: ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
C: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!



Love, love, love, the heart of Christ is love.
 On all who come He pours His presence.
 Life and love in holy essence.
 Love, love, love, the heart of Christ is love.

ALL: O LORD our God, Your Word to us in scripture reminds us that in our hope in You we are not disappointed, because Your love has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. You demonstrated Your love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 8:5, 8). Write Your Word on our hearts, and by Your Holy Spirit guide us to love one another as you have loved us. Make us Your disciples and inspire in us the ability to embody and to share the power of Your love; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

P: We look forward with eager anticipation to God's promise fulfilled, the promise of steadfast and never—ending love. And so we light this fourth candle and name it "**Love**". (The Hymn follows, please stand.)

These Candles Shine with Glorious Light

*Tune: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry." (LBW#36) © 2006 Thomas F. Fischer and CreativeMusic.com.
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These candles shine with glorious light,
 Give peace and hope to those in night,
 The joy they bring gives hope today,
 And peace through Christ, in all our ways.

Give love, O Lord, to us this day,
 Make in our hearts a ready way.
 That Christ, our Hope, our King, may show
 His love and grace from heav'n above.

Hymn of the Day

"What Child is This"

LBW #40

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter. (ESV) **C:(spoken) **Glory to You, O LORD.****

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for

joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said,
 "My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for

me,
and holy is his name.
50 And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts;
52 he has brought down the mighty from their
thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and
returned to her home.

(The Gospel of our LORD.)

C: (spoken) **Praise to You, O Christ**

We Worship by Confessing Our Faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

. **WE BELIEVE** in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

WE BELIEVE in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one
Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our
salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He
became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made human. For our
sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was
buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will
come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one Holy Christian
and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Sermon

Pastor Eric Hullstrom

We Worship In Thanksgiving By Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

The offering is received

As the congregation stands, the ushers bring the offering forward.

“With Grateful Joy”

With grateful joy for you the source of all life
We raise one voice to you from whom all blessings flow.
You are the Giver of Life; you are the Lover of life,
the Good Sustainer of Life. We live in you. We live in you.

We pray together the offering prayer: P: Merciful Father...

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our LORD.
Amen

The Prayers of the church

(Each petition concludes with “LORD, in your mercy”, to which the congregation responds: “hear our prayer”)

We Worship by Receiving Our LORD in His Holy Meal

The Great Thanksgiving (Spoken)

P: *The LORD be with you.*

C: *And also with you.*

P: *Lift up your hearts.*

C: *We lift them to the LORD.*

P: *Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.*

C: *It is right to give Him thanks and praise.*

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . (Here the minister continues with the preface:)

C: *Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD. Hosanna in the highest.*

The Words of Institution and The LORD'S Prayer (congregation sings)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Holy Communion: Lutherans believe the LORD's Supper is a holy sacrament in which Christ comes to us with His grace, love, compassion, and forgiveness. The crucified and risen Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine – He promises: “This is my body... This is my blood”. Therefore, the Apostle Paul says we should examine ourselves lest we eat or drink in an unworthy manner (1 Cor. 11:27ff.). Martin Luther wrote, “Anyone who does not believe these words (‘this is My body given for you this is My blood shed for you.’), is neither prepared nor worthy; for the words, ‘FOR YOU’ requires simply a believing heart.” Therefore, all (including children who have received instruction) who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and LORD and who see His presence in the sacrament are welcome to commune with us.

As you come forward for communion, you are invited to dip your fingers in the water of the baptismal font and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead as a reminder of Christ's claim upon you through your baptism.

(For those with gluten allergies, we now have gluten-free wafers available for Communion on the Baptismal Font.)

The congregation sings: ***“Lamb of God”***

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns:"Song of Confession"

Fa - ther, Fa - ther, Ho - ly and lov - ing, For - give, for - give.

Fa - ther, Fa - ther, I am un - wor - thy, For - give, for - give. ^{3rd time only}

know ate my in thoughts, me My anx - ious - ness and pride. You
A heart that's clean and new. Re -

hear store my my words, love, So care - less and un - kind. un - kind.
And let me walk with You.

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"Eat this Bread"

WOV #709

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

"Emmanuel" (Sing twice)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

Post-Communion Prayer and Canticle

Thank God and sing praise! Raise our voices high - er! Pro - claim
 Christ's Way! Thank God and sing praise! Make the cir - cle wid - er!
 All who know the taste of grace! God's peop - le gath - ered all
 ov - er the world, led on in prom - ise, sent forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing all ov - er the world, sing Hal - le - lu - jah!

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The Benediction (Pastor)

The congregation sings 3-fold "Amen"

On Our Way Rejoicing

Closing Hymn

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

LBW #34

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong branch of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
 5 Oh, come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, That mourns in low - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of Hell Thy peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 Heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 And give them vic - 'try o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 And close the path to mi - ser - y.

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

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866
Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.



The Four Candles burned slowly.
Their Ambiance was so soft you could hear them speak...

The first candle said, "I Am **Peace**, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit."
Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

The second candle says, "I Am **Faith**, but these days, I am no longer indispensable."
Then Faith's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly, the third candle spoke, "I Am **Love** and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them."
And waiting no longer, Love goes out completely.

Suddenly, a child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning.
The child begins to cry, "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end."

Then the Fourth Candle spoke gently to the little boy, "Don't be afraid, for I Am **Hope**, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

With shining eyes, the child took the Candle of Hope and lit the other three candles.

Never let the **Flame of Hope** go out of your life.

With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are...Peace, Faith and Love can shine brightly in our lives.

-- Author Unknown

SMALL PACKAGES, GREAT THINGS

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel." Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!