

LOVE: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

RESPONSE: Your love is established forever; your faithfulness is firm as the heavens.

LEADER: We wanted to build God a house, but God said, "I have been with you wherever you have gone. I took you from the pasture, and I will make you a house." Love is coming to dwell with us.

RESPONSE: Wherever we have gone, O God, you have gone with us.

LEADER: The angel said to Mary, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid." And Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

RESPONSE: Let it be with us, O God, according to your word.

Light the three purple candles and the one pink candle.

ALL: We light the candle of love today, a love that keeps its promises. This love goes before us, pitches its tent among us, and tells the lowly and the unlikely, "Do not be afraid." It is a love fierce enough to unsettle every power that would keep the lowly low, and wide enough to gather every nation, tribe, and tongue. We open our hearts and our lives, and we say with Mary: "Let it be." Amen.