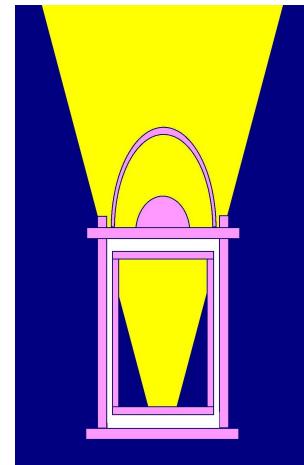


Advent 2016 Worship Resources: *Lighting the Way...*

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 18 December 2016

Lighting the Way to... Unknown Love

Suggested Scriptures: Isaiah 7:10-16 & Matthew 1:18-25



Advent Wreath Lighting Litany:

love, it seems, is unknown.

give us a sign
show us an emoji-con
send us a text,
speak to us.

here's one:

a young woman will show up bearing a child whose name is Immanuel, God with us.

come, Christ, come.

visit our dreams
stir our imaginations
calm our fears
embolden our courage
be with us.

make what is unknown,
known.

as we light this candle for love,
light our way.

Communion Prayers:

Love brings us to the table.

 Here we learn peace,
 find hope,
 feel joy.

Amazing God, we thank you for your love
that calls us to this place and time,
and fills us with your abundant grace.

 Your love knows no bound.
 Our thanksgiving knows no end.
 We honor you with our praises.

Bless this table, O God, as we gather to receive your gifts. May we remember your love, from which you created us, and with which you fill us to overflowing. Amen.

Loving God, we thank you for your invitation to the table, and for the feast that you have provided. May your love flow through us and onto all that we meet along the way. Amen.

Advent Prayer:

In the silence of our despair, an unknown love is embracing us.

In the darkest night of our lives, an unknown love keeps us safe.

We are restored by that love that comes to us
from the most unthinkable places.

Show us, beloved One, how to keep our doors open,
so that we can become a community sealed by your love. Amen.

En Español:

En el silencio de nuestra desesperación un Amor desconocido nos está abrazando. En la noche más oscura de nuestra vida un Amor desconocido nos mantiene a salvo. De lugares impensables viene este Amor que nos restaura. Muéstranos Amado, enséñanos Amada a mantener las puertas abiertas y así transformarnos en una comunidad sellada por tu amor.