

## Advent Planner

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### Metairie Church

- Week Four: Love

- Here we are, nearly at the end of a season in the life of the church known as Advent, when we remember the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ, to earth, and we wait, with joy, for his coming again to earth to reign. Now, we don't have long to wait. We, at Metairie Church, are celebrating this season by, each week leading up to Christmas, reading part of the story of Christmas and asking everyone to participate in a responsive prayer around four common themes of advent: hope, peace, joy, and love.
- We light this candle as a representation of God's love. [*Light the Candle.*] Our faith in the promise that God will return to us isn't founded upon our love for God. Our love stumbles, falls, and fails. Our faith is founded upon the love of God, who loved us in this way: he sent his only son to us to save us while we were still enemies. His love has stayed with us through generations and centuries. His love has covered a multitude of sins. His love never fails. Our reading this morning is from the book of John, chapter 1:

- [*Read John 1:1-14*]

- This is the word of the Lord, and we thank God for it. At this time, we would ask you to join us in a responsive prayer—it will be up on the screens. We will start, and then you will join in at the very end. Pastor Augustine is going to lead you in this, so join in whenever he does.

God, Father,

You are beyond the grasp of my understanding,

but not beyond that of my love.

I seek to love you most of all,

because you're most worthy of love.

From time to time, my heart melts at his love,

Christ my brother, of the same flesh and bone as I am,

married to me, dead for me, risen for me,

given to me as well as for me.

I'm never so much mine as when I'm his,

or so much lost to myself until I'm lost in him;

and then I find my true self.

My love is frost and cold, ice and snow;

Let his love warm me,

lighten my burden,

be my heaven.

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Father, make the tide of your love  
cover the rocks of my sin and care.

**Lord Jesus, come to me,  
Divine Spirit, rest upon me,  
Holy Father, look on me in mercy  
for the sake of the well-beloved.<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Prayer adapted from “The Love of Jesus” in *The Valley of Vision*.