



## *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

### *Peace*

In celebrating this Advent season, we have lit the candle of hope, signifying the hope of salvation brought by the birth of God's Son, Jesus the Christ.

*(Light one previously lit purple candle)*

We have lit the candle of love, reminding us that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. *(Light second previously lit purple candle)* And, we have lit the candle of joy, signifying the joy that came into the world through Jesus, and is

ours today. *(Light the pink candle)*

Today we come to light the candle of peace. Does that seem strange in a world that has so little peace? Remember, that is not greatly different from the first Christmas. Yet, the angel said to the shepherd, **peace on the earth to persons on whom His favor rests.** Jesus Christ came to bring peace. But, until he returns and there is actual peace on earth, that peace is the peace in the hearts of persons who trust Him. Remember that Isaiah said that Messiah would be the Prince of Peace. So, today, let us celebrate the peace that is ours through Jesus Christ, son of God, Prince of Peace. *(Light the final purple candle)*

### *Let us Pray*

Heavenly Father, on this final Sunday of Advent, we look forward to the celebration of the birth of your Son, in but a few days. Hope fills our lives; love overflows to the hurting world; joy is ours to share with the world. Now, as the church has sung through the ages *dona nobis pacem*, give us peace.

In the Name of the Prince of Peace. *Amen.*