ADVENT WREATH DEVOTIONS for THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT LOVE

FIRST READER: This is the second Sunday in Advent. Today, we light two purple candles. Last Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. This Sunday, we light the candle of love. One verse that many memorize and remember on this day is John 3:16, "God so loved the world..." some people may not know the love of other people. That makes it harder for them to understand God's love. During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know that God's love for all people is the reason for this gift. We remember that we are the ones to share God's love in the world.

Light the first and second candles. Sing or read together the hymn: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," hymn #89 in the 1982 Hymnal.

SECOND READER: When we look at the second candle, we remember God's love. When we read the words of the psalmist, we know of God's greatness and care. We remember God's love at Advent when we remember that God sent Jesus to us to help us know that God is loving and just.

FIRST READER: Read Isaiah 11:1-10

DISCUSSION: When we think of God's love, we might not always think of the words of the prophets. But when we listen to this description of the peaceable kingdom, we are amazed by God's love that allows a child to lead. Who are the people in our world who need the message of God's love? What are our hopes for how people today can receive the message of God's love? How do we help others know God's love?

Loving God, thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for the words in our Bible that help us remember your love and care. Help us see how we can bring God's love to the people we meet in our schools, at our jobs, and in our neighborhoods. Help us to be messengers of God's love for everyone. AMEN