

Week three

12.15-12.21

"WITH THE DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE"

Prayer of the week: Dear Lord, as we begin to give and receive gifts from one another, we are reminded of the greatest gift of all, Jesus. There in the manger we find grace, that is divine favor given out of pure love for us and the world. For your coming to us, for your favor, for the dawn of redeeming grace, we give you thanks. Amen

Scripture for the week: "Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed." 1 Peter 1.13

In-kind offering: Peanut butter & jelly for the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. Please bring items to the manger in the gathering space at LCR.

Week four

12.22-12.24

"JESUS, LORD AT THY BIRTH"

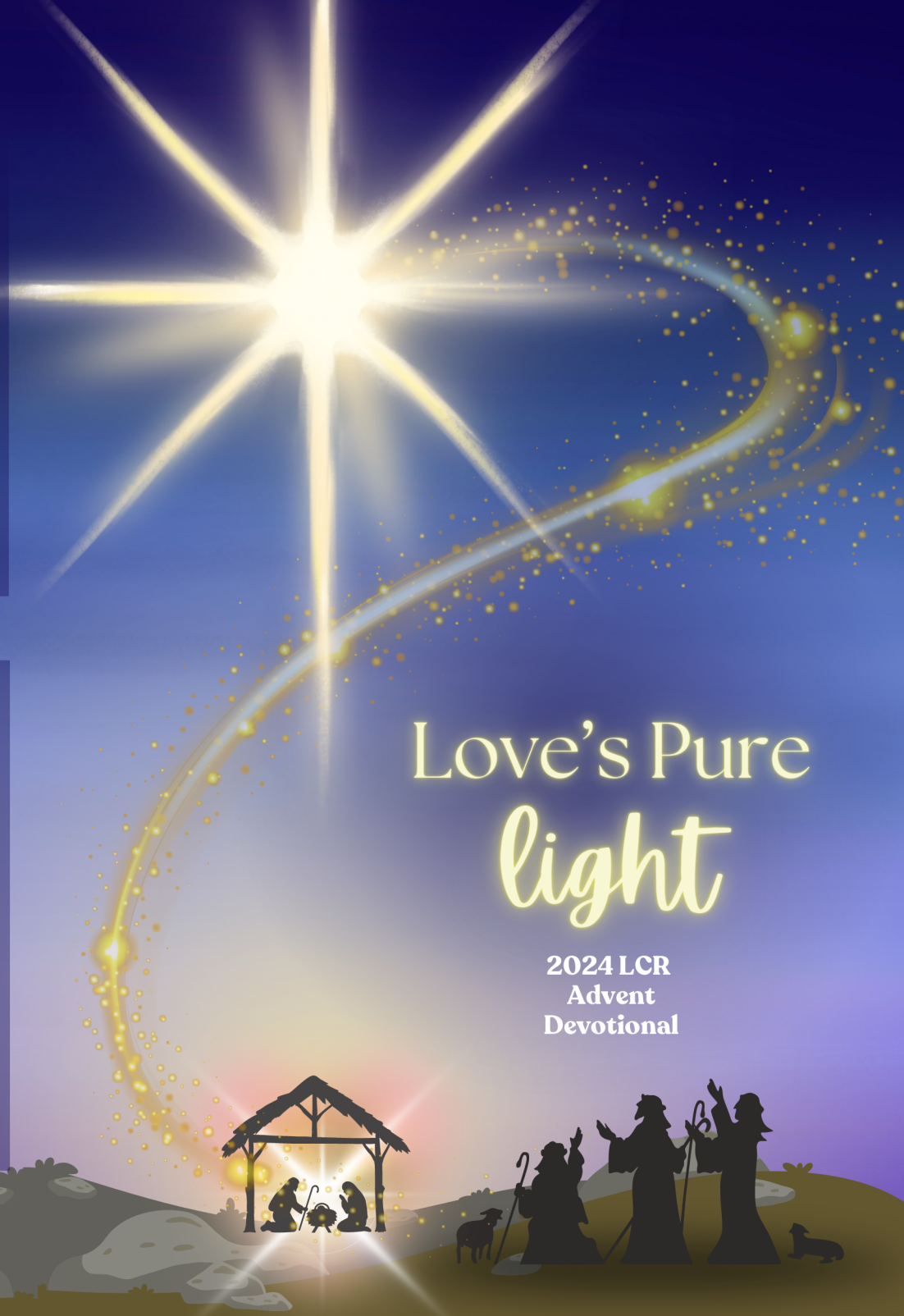
Prayer of the week: Dear Lord, as the celebration of Christmas approaches this week, we give you thanks for this time of Advent that has allowed us to reflect on your presence in the world. We ask that our lives and voices might add to the chorus that is sung throughout history to give you honor and praise—Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Amen.

Scripture for the week: "The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Luke 1.35

In-kind offering: Hats, gloves, blankets, hand/foot warmers for Willis Dady. Please bring items to the manger in the gathering space at LCR.

Love's Pure light

2024 LCR
Advent
Devotional





Love's Pure light

It was on Christmas Eve 1818 that Josef Mohr (one of the pastors) at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf village, near Salzburg, Austria first sang Silent Night, a poem he had written to the tune composed for guitar by the church organist Franz Gruber. The story is told that the church organ was broken, and Mohr, reflecting on the Christmas story while walking along a hilltop that overlooked the peaceful snow-covered village below remembered a poem that he had written and was inspired to turn it into a carol to be shared with his people.

This carol has become a treasured part of the Christmas season as its lyrics focus us on peace, love and the gift of Jesus – God with us – born into the world. This Advent season, we invite you to reflect with us through the words of Silent Night and find a deeper and sustaining peace in our often frantic world.

We also invite you to bring your own offerings—simple and in-kind gifts—to help us stay focused on the love's pure light that we share with the world. We encourage you to set aside an intentional time each day during Advent to light your candle, to pray for those who are surrounded by darkness, and to ask that Jesus, the light of the world, might help us to share his love.

A simple prayer to start each day, or to be used with children as the devotional candle is lit:

**Thank you Lord Jesus for lighting the way.
Help us to love others every new day. Amen**

Week one

12.1 - 12.7

"ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT"

Prayer for the week: Dear Lord, in the midst of a busy and noisy world that can at times overwhelm us, we thank you for your presence which brings peace and light. Help us this week to breathe deeply and remember that you have come into our world that we might know your love. Amen

Scripture for the week: "I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution, but take courage: I have conquered the world!" John 16.33

In-kind offering: Dish soap, laundry soap, all purpose cleaner (ex: Lysol) for Willis Dady. Please bring items to the manger in the gathering space at LCR.

Week two

12.8 - 12.14

"GLORIES STREAM FROM HEAVEN AFAR"

Prayer for the week: Dear Lord, as we prepare for Christmas, we are reminded that you love the world, and that Jesus has come to reveal your glory and mercy. Help us to remember that the kingdom is within us and that we too can help bring light and love to the world. Amen

Scripture for the week: "But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3.20

In-kind offering: Rice and/or mac n' cheese for the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. Please bring items to the manger in the gathering space at LCR.

