

## Devotion for 4th Week of Advent

### Rev. Jeanne Simpson

This week we celebrate the theme of love. Love has been a major theme of the Bible since Genesis. Deuteronomy 7 says this:

“The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the people on earth to be his people, his treasured possession....because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors....”

Love is coming on Christmas Day, and that love is personified this time not in redemption by God from enemies or pain or sorrow, but in God’s actual flesh. A huge mystery that is hard to fathom. But God chose to enter this world to be with the humans that God had created in God’s own image. God chooses to be with God’s chosen people – and those people are all of us.

Henri Nouwen said this: “We have to dare to reclaim the truth that we are God’s chosen ones, even when our world does not choose us ....The great spiritual battle begins – and never ends- with the reclaiming of our chosenness.

When we are chosen, we are loved, treasured, and valued. In Christ we are God’s chosen ones and we are God’s beloved. 1 John 4 says we love because He first loved us. So as we await the coming birth of our Savior, let us remember that we are loved, always, and all God expects in return is for us to love others as we love God, and as God loves us. May you show that love in all that you do this week.

*Jeanne*