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# *Advent Week 4*

## *Day 22, Sunday, December 19th*

Each year, many Christian churches celebrate Advent by lighting an Advent wreath. Each week a different candle is lit until we arrive at Christmas Eve when we light the center candle which is the Christ candle. The candles around the wreath each represent a different gift that comes to us with the birth of Christ. The traditional focuses are hope, peace, joy, and love. For each Sunday of our Advent devotion, we will rename these focuses to encourage us to embody these traditional aspects of our faith in new ways this Advent season.

The focuses will be:

Spaciousness - helping us to embody hope  
Contemplation - helping us to embody peace  
Commitment - helping us to embody joy  
Imagination - helping us to embody love

**This week we light the candle of Imagination.**

**Our Imagination helps us to envision what does not exist.**

**When we Imagine a better future we say: "Love is stronger than hate." (Light four candles)**

It takes imagination to begin to envision a world where acts of violence, fear, and hatred are no longer an everyday part of life. God invites us to envision such a world by sending Jesus to be with us. It is Christ who endures the pain, suffering, and violence of this world in order to redeem it. It is Christ who invites us to use our imagination to build bridges of love rather than walls of hate. Let us imagine a new world where we love each other as Christ has loved us. Let us imagine a new world where all are welcome and know their own belovedness. Let us imagine a world where we can truly say: Love is stronger than hate.

**REFLECT:** How can you contribute to bringing this new type of world into reality?

**PRAYER:** Gracious God, may we celebrate who we are as we celebrate who you are this Advent season. As Jesus taught us to love each other as he has loved us, may your living Spirit ignite our imaginations to find new ways to live out this love each and every day. Help us to imagine a new way of being that ushers in your Kingdom of love. Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for how he shows us this way of love and calls us to be love for each other. Amen.

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