5. From Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' birth to later through the years, in what ways do you think Joseph's love for Mary and for God evolved?

The opening prayer and questions 1–3 are excerpted from The Uncluttered Heart*, by Beth Richardson.*

Thoughts and Notes

Touching heaven, changing earth with head, heart and hands

Sunday, December 20, 2015
Matthew 1:18-21, 24-25

We offer these questions for reflection during the service or during your week. Ponder them yourself, or discuss them with friends.

Today we light all four candles on the Advent wreath. The first candle is the candle of hope. The second candle is the candle of peace. The third candle is the candle of joy. This fourth candle is the candle of love. God sent love to us in the form of a baby: Jesus, the Christ. We wait in love for Christ's coming. … Thanks be to God. Amen.

1. What does your heart require for love to have the best chance to be present and nurtured?

2. What is required to create love in your church? community? world?

3. What barriers keep you from loving others? from loving God?

4. What do you imagine was Joseph's initial reaction when Mary told him she was pregnant with Jesus?

WORSHIP THEME QUESTIONS