

## **Responsive Reading** from Matthew and from Martin Luther King

Leader: You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say unto you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

People: Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life, love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.

Leader: If you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others?

People: We must develop the capacity to forgive. Those who are devoid of the power to forgive, are devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us, and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

Leader: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

People: Love is the most durable power in the world. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.

## **Fourth Advent Candle – Love**

Song

### **Unison Prayer**

Gracious and merciful God, you have called us to love our neighbors, and to love our enemies. You know how hard this is for us. Fill our hearts with your grace, so that we may release to the world the love you have given us. Help us illuminate the shadows with your love. Help us serve in the world by sharing your love, particularly with those in need. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.