

# A Winter's Dream:

## Waking up to the Promise of Peace

**Prayer:** "Lantern of Love"

**Reading:** *The Ladder of Light* by Steven Charleston

Sometimes in this troubled world of ours, we forget love is all around us. We imagine the worst of other people and withdraw into our own shells. But try this simple test: Stand still in any crowded place and watch the people around you. Within a very short time, you will begin to see love, and you will see it over and over and over. A young mother talking to her child, a couple laughing together as they walk by, and older man holding the door for a stranger—small signs of love are everywhere. The more you look, the more you will see. Love is literally everywhere. We are surrounded by love. The instinct to care is still within us—all of us—so much so that you can see it clearly just by standing still.

### Reflection

*Pause to be in touch with the divine light dwelling within your being. Imagine yourself as a candle in the darkness, a shining presence of love. Call to mind people whose life holds the bleak grayness of suffering. Consider, too, people and places globally and the harm being done there. Mindfully gather Emmanuel's light. Send this forth to all whom you have remembered. At the close of this reflection, deliberately decide to be a lantern of love this Advent season.*

### Response

*May the lantern of my life move gently this night  
Into all the places where light is needed.*

"The Lantern of my Life" by Velma Frye

**Closing Prayer:** "Beloved Emmanuel"



### Lantern of Love

In the unclouded cottage of my soul  
A watchful light remains ever vigilant.  
In the thick forest of my darkest hours  
There gleams a trustworthy sentinel.

In the most lost experience  
of searching

a beam of direction  
calmly lights the way.

In the painful moments  
of impermanence,

a signal of presence  
softens the loneliness.

In the bleakness of disturbing trials  
You, Lantern of Love, shine steadfastly.

Joyce Rupp

Fragments of Your Ancient Name



Beloved Emmanuel,  
You are a steady lantern of light  
guiding the way.

Clear what has become clouded.  
Bring home what has  
wandered away.

Free what holds me captive.  
Revive love grown weak.  
Lantern of Love, I welcome you.  
Inner radiance, I welcome you.  
Beacon of Hope, I welcome you.  
Sun of Justice, I welcome you.  
Fire of Truth, I welcome you.  
Vigilant Flame, I welcome you.  
Morning Star, I welcome you.  
Everlasting Light, I welcome you.

Joyce Rupp

