

Sunday, December 21, 2014

## 4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

The fourth candle lit in the Advent Wreath represents the  
“peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.” (Phil. 4:7)

*And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace  
of thy children. **Isaiah 54:13***

Throughout my childhood, my parents took care of children as part of the foster care program. Taken from the family they knew and placed among “strangers,” these children came to us with much fear and anxiety and very few possessions. With three to five extra children in our house, it was always a busy and noisy place, especially at Christmas.

Because the children in our home had been living in poor conditions, (one had even been living in a car with her mother) having their senses stimulated with all of this noise—as well as the sights of a Christmas tree, lights, and presents—was certainly more than they had ever experienced. My parents provided these fearful children with so much more than just the “trimmings” of Christmas. The true focus of Christmas in our house was on the birth of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. As we celebrated Jesus’ birthday, the children truly came to know the God who cares for them. In addition, because of my parents’ love and care for them in every way, they also had a true sense of family and belonging. They now knew that they also belonged to the family of God!

*Dear Lord, in the busyness of this season, may we remember the birth of Your Son, Jesus. May we also sense Your love and remember how You care for us. Let us reach out to others with Your hands of love in this season to show the true meaning of Christmas. Amen.*

**Kath Doerr**

(Submitted in 2010)