Howard Thurman – an African American author, philosopher, theologian, and civil rights activist. He died in 1982. His words convey one of the themes of the Christmas season – the use of candles to remind us of the coming of Christ as the light of the world. Thurman tells us: “I will light Candles this Christmas, Candles of joy despite all the sadness, Candles of hope where despair keeps watch, Candles of courage for fears ever present, Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days, Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens, Candles of love to inspire all my living, Candles that will burn all year long.”