NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Advent is a season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Matthew 24:36-44**	**The coming of salvation**
Monday	**Isaiah 2:1-5**	**Peace that lasts forever**
Tuesday	**Romans 13:11-14**	**The day when Christ returns**
Wednesday	**Jeremiah 29:10-14**	**Seventy years in Babylonia**
Thursday	**Psalm 125**	**A song of trust in God**
Friday	**Romans 15:1-6**	**Please others, not yourselves**
Saturday	**Psalm 122**	**A song of praise**
Sunday	**Matthew 3:1-12**	**Prepare the way of the Lord**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. **Isaiah 2:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Lord Jesus Christ, you who are the light of the world, guide our steps to walk in your light. Amen. (Isaiah 2:5)

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, may we eat and drink with thankful hearts, for all that you provide for us every day and in every way. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you with hope all your days.

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NOVEMBER 30, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

All Earth Is Hopeful

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you hope for during this time of year?
- Advent means *arrival* or *coming*. How do you get ready for the coming of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 2:1-5.

Advent is a season of hope and anticipation of God's action to redeem the world. That is Isaiah's message, too. Isaiah sees what others do not. Isaiah sees Jerusalem as the highest mountain, but Psalm 125:2 sees other peaks as higher. Isaiah sees the people walking in the paths of the LORD's teaching, but before and after Isaiah 2, judgment is announced for the people's disobedience. Isaiah sees weapons of violence and destruction that are turned into farming tools, but the nations of Israel and Judah were utterly destroyed by its neighbors. Even while brokenness and sin are still present, the message of Isaiah is one of hope that the Christian faith announces each Advent.

Discuss: What hope do you hold on to as a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **Come Lord Jesus, come and bring peace between nations. May we see the light of your glory in all the world. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you find a way to give hope to someone who is feeling sad or anxious?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Set up or make a circular Advent wreath. Place four candles on the wreath and one in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God. The four candles are often blue to signify the hope of the Advent season. The center candle is white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Leader: **This is the first week of Advent. Advent means *coming*. We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the Candle of Hope.**

[Light one candle]

All: ***O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!*** (Isaiah 2:5)

Leader: **Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us hope.**

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope. May we walk in the light of the Lord and live in peace with all that you have made. Amen.**

DECEMBER 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Advent is a season of peace.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Matthew 3:1-12**	**Prepare the way of the Lord**
Monday	**Isaiah 11:1-10**	**The peaceful kingdom**
Tuesday	**Romans 15:4-13**	**Good news for Jews and Gentiles**
Wednesday	**James 3:13-18**	**Two kinds of wisdom**
Thursday	**Isaiah 55:10-13**	**God's people will celebrate**
Friday	**2 Thessalonians 3:16**	**Final greeting of peace**
Saturday	**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**	**A prayer for guidance for the king**
Sunday	**Matthew 11:2-11**	**Jesus and John the Baptist**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Lord Jesus Christ, you who bring hope to the world, guide our steps to walk in your way of peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, thank you for this food. May this gift of love strengthen us to live lives of hope and peace through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the God of hope fill you with peace. (Romans 15:13)

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DECEMBER 7, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you are concerned about or that worries you?
- Jesus comes to bring peace. How do you experience the peace that Jesus brings?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 3:1-12.

In the Bible the wilderness is a place of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. With John the Baptist, something quite dramatic is happening in the wilderness: preparing for the coming of Jesus into our world and lives. The coming of Jesus represents the ultimate experience of repentance, cleansing, and renewal by living in a way that bears good fruit and that shows love for God and neighbor. John sounds harsh with words of judgment, not peace and hope. However, God's work of judgment is its own act of preparation and renewal. God's judgment promises to put an end to sin, death, and evil. That is our great hope.

Discuss: In the world today, where do you look for God's power of renewal and peace?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, come into our lives and cleanse us of all that is within us that is not part of your kingdom of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bear good fruit and show kindness to those in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week light two candles on the Advent wreath: the Candle of Hope and the Candle of Peace. The Candle of Peace reflects God's peaceful kingdom.

Leader: **This is the second week of Advent. Advent means *coming*. We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the Candles of Hope and Peace.**

[Light two candles]

All: **The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.** (Isaiah 11:6)

Leader: **Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us peace.**

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope and peace. May we walk in the light of the Lord and live in peace with all that you have made. Amen.**

DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Advent is a season of joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Matthew 11:2-11**	**Jesus and John the Baptist**
Monday	**Isaiah 35:1-10**	**The return to Zion**
Tuesday	**James 5:7-10**	**Patience in suffering**
Wednesday	**1 Thessalonians 5:12-23**	**A final greeting**
Thursday	**Nehemiah 8:9-12**	**Ezra reads God's Law**
Friday	**Philippians 4:4-9**	**Paul encourages the people**
Saturday	**Psalm 146:5-10**	**Praise for God's help**
Sunday	**Matthew 1:18-25**	**God is with us**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. **Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Lord God, you who bring healing, hope, and joy to the world, give us the faith to trust your never-ending care through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, you who made heaven and earth, we thank you for this food, a sign of your never-failing love. Amen. (Psalm 146:6)

A Blessing to Give:
May you receive joy and gladness through Jesus Christ.

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DECEMBER 14, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you have been filled with joy?
- In what ways does God's love for us bring joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 35:1-10.

The people of Israel were exiled far from home, imprisoned in Babylon, a foreign land. The people were wondering if there was a future for them. Did the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob abandon them? We can ask similar questions. Will our children have faith? Has our Lord abandoned us? To all such concerns and questions Isaiah responds with unbelievable images of God doing amazing things: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will walk; and those who can't talk will sing for joy. God makes the impossible, possible. Advent reminds us of God's power and promise that is like no other. Advent is a time for joy and being patient for God to do what only God can do, that is, save God's people.

Discuss: How does God's promise of care for our daily needs bring you joy?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, help us to trust your amazing healing power for our lives and our world. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help supply daily needs to those in your community who are dealing with hardships?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week light three candles on the Advent wreath: The Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, and the Candle of Joy. The Candle of Joy reflects the joyful return of God's people to Zion.

Leader: **This is the third week of Advent. Advent means *coming*. We are waiting for the coming of Christ. Let us light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.**

[Light three candles]

All: ***Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.*** (Isaiah 35:5-6)

Leader: **Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us joy.**

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, and joy. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen.**

DECEMBER 21, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Advent is a season of love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Matthew 1:18-25**	**God is with us**
Monday	**Isaiah 7:10-16**	**A son named Immanuel**
Tuesday	**Romans 1:1-7**	**A salutation**
Wednesday	**Luke 2:1-20**	**The birth of Jesus**
Thursday	**John 1:1-14**	**The Word became flesh**
Friday	**Isaiah 9:2-7**	**A child is born**
Saturday	**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**	**Israel's restoration**
Sunday	**Matthew 2:13-23**	**The escape to Egypt**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." **Matthew 1:23 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Almighty and everlasting God, may the birth of Jesus remind us of your promise of salvation and lead us to trust in you and to serve and love others with thankful hearts. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Lord Jesus Christ, may this food give strength to our bodies and faith, hope, and love to our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the love of God bless you with peace.

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DECEMBER 21, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you do to show love for someone?
- How does the birth of Jesus show the love of God for all the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 1:1-7.

The birth of Jesus is not about the sweet presence of a smiling baby. It is about the work of God to save the world by entering our experience and being with us (Matthew 1:23). Ours is the God who promised this beforehand through the prophets, who has come in the flesh in the line of King David, who rose from the dead and is recognized as the Son of God. We are the beloved of God and named holy. With the birth of Jesus comes the fulfillment of God's action to change the world of darkness and despair to the dwelling place of God's loving and saving presence for all the world. It includes a divine assignment to love all people with the good news of Jesus Christ. This is what Advent, Christmas, and the Christian faith are all about.

Discuss: How is this kind of love more of an action than a feeling?

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for entering our world and our lives with hope and love. Help us to love the world you love in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you share God's love with someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week light four candles on the Advent wreath: the Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, the Candle of Joy, and the Candle of Love. The Candle of Love reflects how God showed love for us by sending Jesus to be with us. During this Advent season we pray for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God through Jesus Christ.

Leader: **This is the fourth week of Advent. Advent means *coming*. We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.** [Light four candles]

All: ***"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."*** (Matthew 1:23)

Leader: **Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us love.**

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, joy, and love. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen.**

MILESTONES MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**

DECEMBER 24-25, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY

taking faith home

Praising God for Jesus' birth.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas observances.

Tuesday	**Isaiah 9:2-7**	**A child is born**
	Luke 2:1-20	**The birth of Jesus**
Wednesday	**John 1:1-14**	**The Word became flesh**
	Hebrews 1:1-12	**God has spoken through Jesus**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it has been told them. **Luke 2:20 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas:
Glory to you O God, glory to you Lord Christ; lead us to praise you and to trust your reign of hope, peace, joy, and love now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Now the silence, now the peace, we pray all hunger in the world to cease. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the news of Jesus' birth give you joy.

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DECEMBER 24-25, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS

Away in a Manger

CHRISTMAS MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you shouted for joy?
- What is it about the Christmas story that makes you want to shout for joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

Our faith in Christ is based in history. It is the time of Emperor Augustus. The town is Bethlehem in Judea. The parents are a poor couple without land of their own. Jesus' birth happens at a time when the Jews were occupied by the Romans, a foreign power controlling much of their lives. While the events describe the life of poverty and oppression that has been a constant factor in human history, something quite amazing breaks into the story: an angel, a messenger of God, and a whole host of heavenly figures announce good news, news that shepherds—a marginalized group in society—bring to Mary, Joseph, and countless throngs throughout history. The birth of Jesus challenges history as we typically see it and announces a divine history that promises God's rule of peace and hope, life and salvation. *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"* (v.14).

Discuss: The angels praised God at Jesus' birth. How do you show praise for Jesus' birth?

Pray: **Lord God, for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that changes everything for us and for the world, we praise you for your promise of life and peace and salvation. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Christmas Bible Readings and theme for this day, what are some ways you can bring joy to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The white candle placed in the center of the Advent wreath represents Christ. Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on the wreath. Then light the Christ Candle.

Leader: **This candle is a symbol of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

All: **John 1:5 states, *"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Jesus is the true light who gives light to every person. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true light of the world. Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.***

Pray: **Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for being born into our world. Bring your eternal light to our hearts, our homes, and our world, for you are our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

DECEMBER 28, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS

taking faith home

The coming of Christ brings joy but causes fear.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Matthew 2:13-23**	**The escape to Egypt**
Monday	**Isaiah 63:7-9**	**God's mercy remembered**
Tuesday	**Hebrews 2:10-18**	**Jesus the high priest**
Wednesday	**Psalm 103:1-5**	**Thanksgiving for God's goodness**
Thursday	**Isaiah 41:8-13**	**Israel assured of God's help**
Friday	**Exodus 1:15—2:10**	**Moses is born to a slave people**
Saturday	**Psalm 148**	**Let all things praise the Lord**
Sunday	**John 1:1-18**	**The Word became flesh**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **Matthew 2:13 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Dear merciful God, bring your comfort and protection to all who experience violence and suffering, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
We thank you for this food; may all who journey through life experiencing hunger be blessed with the food you give. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May our Lord and Savior lift you up in love.

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DECEMBER 28, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Little Town of Bethlehem

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you or someone you know needed protection? What happened?
- Is there a time when you have felt God's protection? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 2:13-23.

Christmas time is a wonderful opportunity to sing Christmas hymns, see beautiful lights and contemplate peace on earth. However, Matthew 2 brings us back to the daily anxieties and violence that continue around us. Innocent children are slaughtered because a king fears for his power. The slaughter of innocent children continues to this day because of fearful leaders. The holy family flees to a land that once enslaved God's people, yet there the family is protected. People seek protection today as refugees in historic numbers. Christ's birth is powerful because sin and death remain realities. Christ's birth brings violence from those who fear God's design and rule. The life of the church is the life of faithful and courageous opposition to all powers that are an affront to the salvation of God in Jesus Christ.

Discuss: Where have you seen peace and justice shared with refugees in today's world?

Pray: **O, Holy Jesus, your path of love and salvation brings hope to a world that needs your care and grace. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help care for refugees or homeless people near you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 148. As you are reading, highlight or circle the word praise in each verse. Make a list of all the things in God's creation that are praising God throughout Psalm 148 (for example: the sun, the moon, and even sea monsters!). Take a moment to read through the list. Think or talk about what you can add to the list that you praise God for (for example: friends, family, and pets).

Say: ***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise the Lord!*** (Psalm 148:1)

JANUARY 1, 2026
NEW YEAR'S EVE,
NEW YEAR'S DAY

taking faith home

Christ makes all things new.

NEW YEAR'S BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your New Year's observances.

Tuesday	**Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**	**For everything there is a season**
	Revelation 21:1-6a	**New heaven and earth**
Wednesday	**Psalm 8**	**Divine majesty and human dignity**
	Matthew 25:31-46	**The great judgment**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR NEW YEAR'S

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." **Revelation 21:5 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for New Year's:
Almighty and merciful God, give us faith to trust in your goodness, and hearts and hands filled with loving deeds, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you with a loving and caring heart.

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JANUARY 1, 2026

taking faith home

HYMN FOR NEW YEAR'S

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

NEW YEAR'S MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Thinking back on the past year, what will you remember the most?
- In what ways has God blessed or shaped you during the past year?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:31-46.

No one likes to be judged. The thought of divine judgment is even more distressing. However, the judgment of God has a cleansing effect. God's judgment means that sin and death pass away. Sin and death are judged and condemned. Hope, faith, and love are what remain. In the parable of the great judgment Jesus points out what is still present: compassion that is committed to loving deeds done for others. People are fed, given something to drink, clothed, cared for during a time of illness, and visited when imprisoned. These are truly loving deeds, not just loving thoughts. What is most amazing is that those who do such things don't realize they have done them to the Son of Man. Loving deeds are motivated by a life filled with love, not fear or the need for personal rewards. As you think about 2026, wonder how the love of God can rule in your heart and shape the work of your hands, feet, and voice.

Discuss: What loving deeds can you do this coming year to bless others?

Pray: **Dear God, with this new year, give me a heart of gladness that cares for others in ways that show how you care for us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the New Year's Bible Readings, what resolutions might you make this year to care for the needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A New Year's tradition in Spain is to eat twelve grapes at midnight to count down the new year. It is thought that this will bring luck each month in the coming year. To put a Christian twist on this tradition, place twelve grapes in a bowl and write a list of twelve ways you or others you know may need God's help in the coming year. At midnight, eat the grapes. Take a moment to read through your list.

Pray: **Lord God, we put the past year behind us with all its blessings and hard times. Help us to look forward to the year to come and to remember that you will take care of us and are with us always. Amen.**

JANUARY 4, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS

taking faith home

The Christmas message is full of grace and truth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**John 1:1-18**	**The Word became flesh**
Monday	**Jeremiah 31:7-14**	**The joyful return of the exiles**
Tuesday	**Ephesians 1:3-14**	**Spiritual blessings in Christ**
Wednesday	**1 Peter 5:1-11**	**Tending the flock of God**
Thursday	**Genesis 50:14-21**	**Joseph's promise to his brothers**
Friday	**2 Corinthians 12:1-10**	**Visions from the Lord**
Saturday	**Psalm 147:12-20**	**Sing and praise the Lord**
Sunday	**Matthew 3:13-17**	**The baptism of Jesus**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God of grace and truth, give us faith to believe and to live with joy, for you have entered our world and our lives as the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, just as you give us our daily bread, give us the joy of knowing the Bread of Life who brings light to all people. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you with grace and truth.

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JANUARY 4, 2026

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Hark! The Herald

Angels Sing

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- The twelve days of Christmas have not ended. Why do you think some people take down their decorations early? When do you take down your decorations?
- Why is the message of Christmas so important to hear again and again?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 1:3-14 and John 1:1-18.

After the celebrations, it is hard to remember that we are still in the season of Christmas, a time to focus on the power, meaning, and joy of Christ's birth. This is when *"the Word became flesh and lived among us"* (John 1:14). It is good to know that we are children of God. Ephesians lifts this up by noting that we are adopted. The Greek text makes it clear that we are adopted like a son. At that time, it was the son who inherited all that the father had. We, as those adopted by God, are heirs to all that God has. What an amazing message, filled with *"grace and truth"* (John 1:17). John uses the word grace (undeserved kindness) four times in this reading, but never again. The rest of the Gospel gives us examples of this grace through light, bread, wine, vines, water, and more. The Christmas message is worthy of an entire season to envision and digest again and again. God comes in human form to touch us with *"grace upon grace"* (John 1:16) that we may know that we are children and heirs of all that God gives us.

Discuss: How can you continue to celebrate and live the message of Christmas?

Pray: **O God of Christmas joy, remind us of your grace and truth that makes us heirs of eternal gladness through the Word that became flesh and now still lives among us. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show kindness to someone this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it"* (John 1:5). Sit in a room after dark, turn the lights out, and light a candle.

Say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.**

Take a moment to think or talk about the difference between light and darkness. How does it feel to be in the dark? What does the light provide that darkness does not? Say a prayer of thanks to Jesus for being the light that darkness cannot overcome.