**Bringing Church Home – January 7, 2018**

**Bible** **Bites**

*These short passages come from the Lectionary readings for today.*

Monday Genesis 1:1-5 Let there be light!

Tuesday Psalm 29:3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters

Wednesday Psalm 29:2 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Thursday Acts 19:1-7 The baptism of repentance

Friday Acts 19:1-7 The baptism of the Holy Spirit

Saturday Mark 1:10,11 John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan River

**Ritual**

*An activity to try at home*

This week’s readings frequently mention water; the voice of the Lord is upon the waters, the baptisms in the Jordan River. But we tend to take water for granted. So, each time you drink a glass of water, wash your hands, fill the teakettle, do the dishes or take a shower, you could offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

**Holy Conversation**

*Talking points for a family or small group conversation*

Do you remember your baptism? Your child’s baptism?

What did it mean for you at the time?

What does it mean for you now?

Why do you think water is used in baptism?

**Caring**

*An idea for putting faith to work*

Not everyone can turn on the tap and get clean water to drink. There are many organizations that work to provide clean drinking water to communities that have none. World Vision is one. You could check out a good video at their web-site <https://donate.worldvision.org/give/clean-water>. Another video shows how Sesame Street Muppets Elmo and Raya help kids in Sub-Saharan Africa learn about water.

**A Prayer for the Week**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of the bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the

Messiah to lead us, through his death and resurrection, form the bondage of sin into everlasting life. Amen.

(Thanksgiving over the Water from the Service of Holy Baptism, *BCP* 306)

**A Mealtime Prayer**

(Maybe you remember this from summer camp.)

Rub-a-dub-dub, thanks for the grub!

Yeah! God!

**A Blessing**

*You could place your hands on another and say this blessing.*

*You could also say it tenderly for yourself.*

You are my Beloved and I am well pleased with you!

**Another Blessing**

May God raise you up above everything.

Spread out like water of a lake.

Be abundance that never ends, that never changes.

Be like a cloud – a cloud that brings rain always. . .

And God promised that it would be so.

(from Samburu, Kenya, in *An Africa Prayer Book*, Ed. Desmond Tutu)

**Bible Verse for the Week**

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. . . [*What other details do you imagine? Height? Hair?]* In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River.

(Mark 1:10, 11)