

DECEMBER 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS DAY



The glory and power of God is here.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Monday	Isaiah 52:7-10	Let Zion rejoice
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-12	God has spoken by a Son
Wednesday	Isaiah 62:6-12	Salvation of Zion
Thursday	Psalms 97	The glory of God's reign
Friday	Titus 3:4-7	Maintain good deeds
Saturday	Psalms 98	Sing praises to the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt

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 hope, peace, joy, and love, we thank you for your glory, power, and might as shown to us in the humble birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who feed shepherds and kings alike, we thank you for this food, a sign of your glory, power, and might that is shown to us in Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the glory of Jesus' birth shine brightly in you today.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Angels We Have Heard
on High*



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:

- How does someone overcome the fear of darkness?
- How does Jesus bring you from fear and darkness into joy and light?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 1:1-14.

John's introduction of Jesus points to a world of contrasts between darkness and light, that is, between the power of fear and deception and the light of God that brings grace, and truth. The arrival of Jesus, the Word that became flesh and now dwells among us, sheds light on what true power and real life looks like: it's the glory of grace and truth. Grace is that divine gift of undeserved kindness. In John truth is more than facts. It is a way of life lived in relationship to Jesus, who is "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Jesus comes to shed light on that which brings God's glory and creates goodness and life. Through the Word that became flesh, all created life has come into being. Powers that live in darkness are not life-giving. The good news to hear this Christmas—and always—is that Jesus' light overcomes darkness. Jesus is the source of all that is life-giving, that which is full of grace and truth for all. It is the power worth knowing and trusting.

Discuss: Where have you seen the powers of darkness at work in the world? Where have you seen the powers of grace and truth at work in the world?

Pray: **God of glory and might, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who brings your grace and truth to conquer all the darkness of sin and evil. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others to have hope in the God of grace and truth?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the four weeks of Advent, we prepared our hearts and minds for the day of Jesus' birth and his coming again. Light the four candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent wreath. Then light the white one, the Christ candle, in the center of the wreath. This week, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another. Dim the lights in the room and have a moment of silence to gaze upon the candles.

Leader: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.** (John 1:5)

All: **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.**



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