

JANUARY 2, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS



God lives among us with grace and truth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | John 1:1-18 | The Word became flesh |
| Monday | Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Israel will return to its own land |
| Tuesday | Ephesians 1:3-14 | Spiritual blessings in Christ |
| Wednesday | 2 Timothy 1:8-14 | Thanksgiving and encouragement |
| Thursday | Zechariah 8:14-17 | God's promises to Zion |
| Friday | 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 | Visions from the Lord |
| Saturday | Psalms 147:12-20 | Sing and praise the Lord |
| Sunday | Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 | 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:

Dear God, our hearts sing with gladness for your grace and truth that blesses us each day through Jesus, the Word that became flesh and lives among us now. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of this food, a reminder of your care for us each and every day through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you every day and in every way. (Ephesians 1:3)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Silent Night, Holy Night!



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:

- Talk or think about the people that support you in your daily life.
- Who has mentored you in the Christian faith? How has that person mentored you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:1-18.

As beautiful as the birth story in Luke is, there is something very powerful about John's account. It is the message of Jesus' entry into our world and lives that is not connected with specific moments. John's account has a timeless and cosmic quality to it that captures the imagination. Not everything about us is marked in time and in a location like Bethlehem. It might be the death of a loved one or an enduring crisis. During such moments, what we need most is God's grace that accepts us, God's light that shatters darkness, and God's truth that heals relationships. What we need to know is that God's Word has entered our lives and world [become flesh] and lives among us now, during our highs and lows and everything in between. This light, grace, and truth stands with us in Christ Jesus, not just as individuals, but as God's whole people.

Discuss: Where do you hope for God's healing power in the world? In your life?

Pray: **Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives and world to give us hope, peace, and compassion for others through Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

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

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the twelve days of Christmas, we remember that St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He was devoted to the Christ child. During these twelve days, we remember the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. If you have a nativity scene set up in your house, consider leaving it out until Epiphany on January 6. Place the white Christ candle (from the Advent wreath) near the scene. Light the candle and take a moment to meditate on the birth of Jesus.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, you are the light that shines on everyone. Help us to shine your light on others that they may know of your glory. Amen.**



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