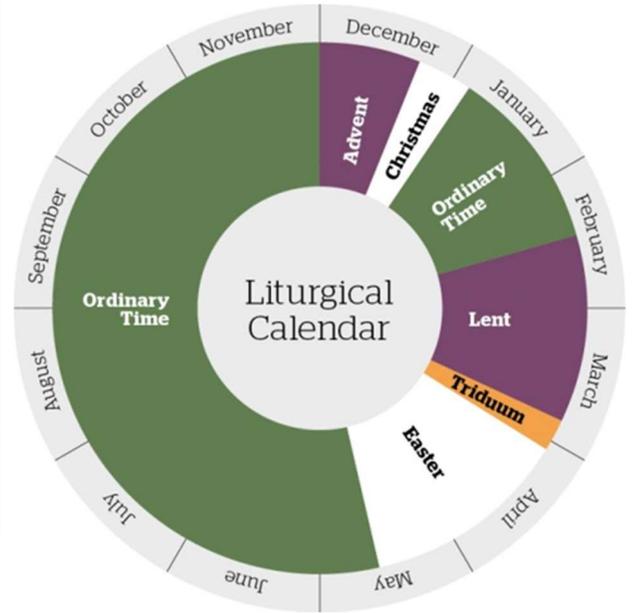
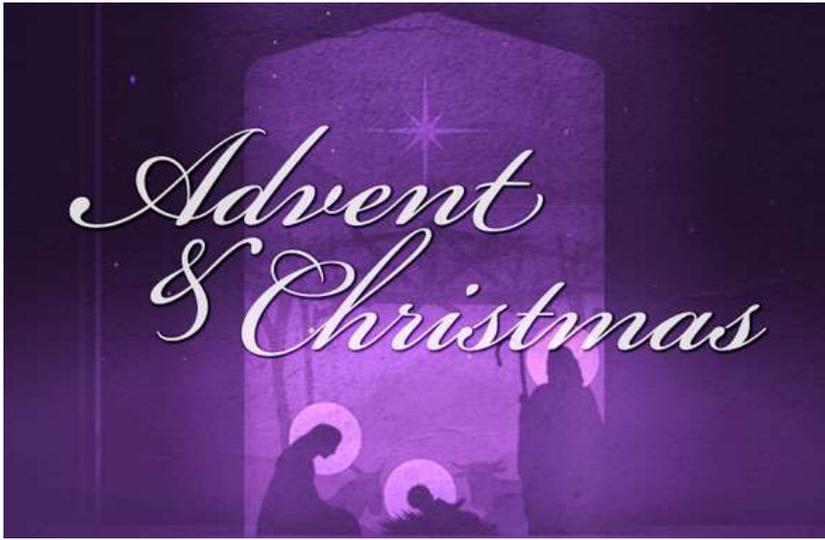




Advent & Christmas

LECTIONARY YEAR B

29 Nov 2020 - 3 Jan 2021



Revised Common Lectionary - Year B:

29 November to 3 January

This booklet contains the Lectionary Readings for the week, with emphasis on the Gospels.

The daily readings expand the range of biblical readings in worship and personal devotion; they complement the Sunday readings and can help prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead or help reflect and digest what was heard in worship.

Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.

CONTENT:

Sunday - Week 1: 29 November
Sunday - Week 2: 6 December
Sunday - Week 3: 13 December
Sunday - Week 4: 20 December

Thursday - 24 December

Friday - 25 December

Sunday - Week 5: 27 December
Friday - 1 January
Sunday - Week 6: 3 January



Daily Devotions

Thursday, November 26: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 13:1-9; Revelation 14:6-13

Friday, November 27: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 14:1-9; I Thessalonians 4:1-18

Saturday, November 28: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Micah 2:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31

Sunday - *Week 1* - 29 November

First Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Second Reading	I Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel	Mark 13:24-37

Bible Reading: Gospel

Mark 13:24-37 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

²⁴ 'But in those days, following that distress,' "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." ²⁶ 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ 'Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you; this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ **Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.**

The day and hour unknown

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ **Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.**

³⁴ It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one

at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"



Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us. ³ Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. ⁴ How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. ⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours, and our enemies mock us. ⁷ **Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

Psalm 80:17-18 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. ¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

Question: What do you need to do to be ready when Jesus comes?

Sermon Notes:

Daily Devotions

Monday, November 30: Psalm 79; Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 15:1-8

Dear God, I need you in my life and in my heart, may I be covered in your love and mercy today.

Tuesday, December 1: Psalm 79; Micah 4:6-13; Revelation 18:1-10

My God, you are my shepherd and I am your sheep. Lead me today as you make your thoughts known.

Wednesday, December 2: Psalm 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38

My Jesus, help me stand in your strength today and every day.



Thursday, December 3: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; I Thessalonians 1:2-10
Dear God, please bind up my wounds today. Revive and restore me in order to do your will.

Friday, December 4: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26
Our God help the church to stay true to your word and to love you with everything we do.

Saturday, December 5: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33
My God, I believe that you are the true authority. Please take over every aspect of my life.

Sunday - Week 2 - 6 December

First Reading	Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Second Reading	2 Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8

Bible Reading: Gospel

Mark 1:1-8 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

John the Baptist prepares the way

*I The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way'³ 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness, **"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."**⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.*



Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 85:1-2 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants – but let them not turn to folly.⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.¹² The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.¹³ Righteousness goes before him.

Question: What does it mean for you specifically to go and prepare the way for the Lord?

Sermon Notes:

Daily Devotions

Monday, December 7: Psalm 27; Isaiah 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42
My Lord, my light and my salvation. I adore you.

Tuesday, December 8: Psalm 27; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18
God, my heart will not fear when you are with me.

Wednesday, December 9: Psalm 27; Malachi 2:10-3:1; Luke 1:5-17
My God, may I dwell in your house all the days of my life.

Thursday, December 10: Psalm 126; Habakkuk 2:1-5; Philippians 3:7-11
God, help me to stand my watch and be vigilant.

Friday, December 11: Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16

FILLED
— with —
JOY

Lord, I stand in awe of your deeds, repeat them today in your power and strength.

Saturday, December 12: Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus, you fill me with joy and laughter, you have done great things for me.

Sunday - Week 3 - 13 December

First Reading	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm	Psalm 126
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel	John 1:6-8, 19-28

Bible Reading: Gospel

John 1:6-8 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ **He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**

John the Baptist denies being the Messiah

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leader in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹ They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.'²² Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, '**I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord."**' ²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, 'Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?'²⁶ 'I baptise with water,' John replied, 'but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 126 New International Version - UK (NIVUK) A song of ascents.

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. ² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.' ³ **The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.** ⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev. ⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with

songs of joy.⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Question: What has God done for you that fills you with great joy?

Sermon Notes:

Daily Devotions

Monday, December 14: Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17

Lord, I trust in you. My faith cannot be shaken.



Tuesday, December 15: Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4

Lord, you are good to those who are upright in heart, surround me now and ever more.

Wednesday, December 16: Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13

My God, please help me to sort out my thought and feelings before I speak.

Thursday, December 17: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4

Lord, I will sing of your love and faithfulness forever.

Friday, December 18: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19; Hebrews 1:5-14

My God, please help me to enthrone you in my life and others.

Saturday, December 19: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-52

Lord, you are God almighty, the beginning and the end.

Sunday - Week 4 - 20 December

First Reading	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Second Reading	Romans 16:25-27
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38

Bible Reading: Gospel

Luke 1:26-38 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The birth of Jesus foretold

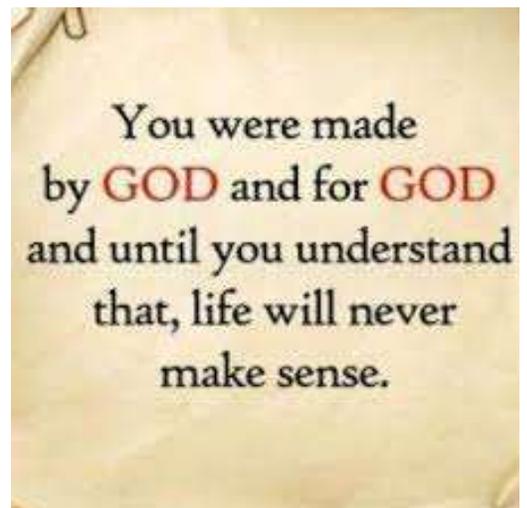
²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, **'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'** ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.' ³⁴ 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' ³⁵ The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.' ³⁸ 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 89:1-4 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹ I will sing of the LORD's great love for ever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations

² I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. ³ You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, ⁴ "I will establish your line for ever and make your throne firm through all generations."' "



FAITHFUL

¹⁹ Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said ‘I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people.’²⁰ I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him.²¹ **My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him.**²² **The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him.**²³ I will crush his foes

before him and strike down his adversaries.²⁴ My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted.²⁵ I will set his hand over the sea his right hand over the rivers.²⁶ He will call out to me, “You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Saviour.”

Question: Where have you seen God’s favour in your life?

Sermon Notes:

Daily Devotions

Monday, December 21: Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-14

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in my God my Saviour.

Tuesday, December 22: Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:19-28; Hebrews 8:1-13

My God has been mindful of me and my troubles. Thank you, God.

Wednesday, December 23: Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11
Hosanna in the highest heaven, blessed is our God and King.



Thursday - 24 December

First Reading	Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalms	Psalms 96
Second Reading	Titus 2:11-14
Gospel	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Bible Reading: Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ **'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'**



Luke 2:15-20 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things

and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 96 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. ² Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. ⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶ Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. ¹⁰ Say among the nations, 'The LORD reigns.' The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. ¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. ¹³ **Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

Question: What does God's peace look like for you?

Sermon Notes:

Friday - 25 December

First Reading	Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm	Psalm 97
Second Reading	Titus 3:4-7
Gospel	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Bible Reading: Gospel

Luke 2:1-7 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



Luke 2:8-20 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

*⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ **But Mary treasured up all***

these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 97 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹ The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.² Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.³ Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.⁴ His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.⁷ All who worship images are put to shame those who boast in idols –worship him, all you gods!⁸ Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, LORD.⁹ For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.¹⁰ Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.¹¹ **Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.**¹² **Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.**

Question: How do you show God that you rejoice in Him?

Sermon Notes:

Daily Devotions

Saturday, December 26: Psalm 148; Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15; Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60

Praise the Lord from heaven, earth and sea. The creator of the universe and me!

Sunday - Week 5 - 27 December

First Reading	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm	Psalm 148
Second Reading	Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40

Bible Reading: Gospel

Luke 2:22-40 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Jesus presented in the temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord', ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'.²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he



had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹ which you have

prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.'³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: **'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'**³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 148 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.⁵ **Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,⁶ and he established them for ever and ever –he issued a decree that will never pass away.**⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,⁹ you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,¹² young men and women, old men and children. ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens. ¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.

Question: How do you feel about the fact that the thoughts of your heart will be revealed?

Sermon Notes:

Daily Devotions

Monday, December 28: Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18

My God, I adore you and love you. thank you for time-out of my daily routine.

Tuesday, December 29: Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50
Jesus, you always stand in the gap for me. Thank you for loving and caring for me.

Wednesday, December 30: Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13
Dear God, help me to walk in your light and wisdom every day.

Thursday, December 31: Psalm 148; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19
My God, I thank you for the past year. For all the ups and downs. I see your presence in everything that happened and pray your blessing on the coming year.



Friday – 1 January

First Reading	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm	Psalm 8
Second Reading	Revelation 21:1-6a
Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46

Bible Reading: Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The sheep and the goats

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ 'Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my



Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." ³⁷ 'Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to

drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?" ⁴⁰ 'The King will reply, "**Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.**" ⁴¹ 'Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me." ⁴⁴ 'They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?" ⁴⁵ 'He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." ⁴⁶ 'Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'

Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 8 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.
² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ **LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Question: Are you known as a kind, giving person? Who do you need to help today?

Sermon Notes:

Daily Devotions

Saturday, January 2, 2021: Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18

Thanks be to you, our Lord, who hold our prayers close to your heart.

Sunday - Week 6 - 3 January

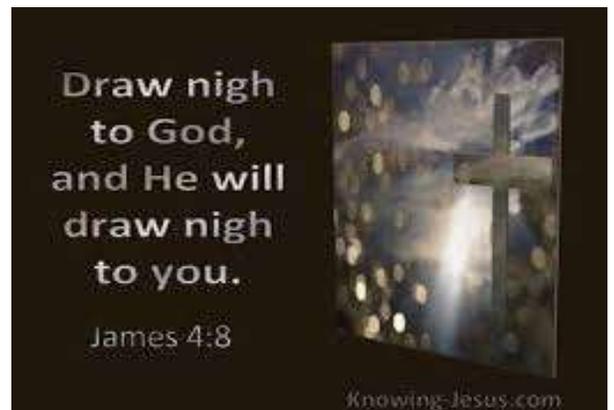
First Reading	Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm	Psalm 147:12-20
Second Reading	Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel	John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Bible Reading: Gospel

John 1:1-9 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The Word became flesh

I In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ **In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.** ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.



John 1:10-18 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² **Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.** ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Bible Reading: Psalm

Psalm 147:12-20 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹² Extol the LORD, Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion. ¹³ **He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you.** ¹⁴ He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat. ¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. ¹⁶ He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes ¹⁷ He hurls down hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? ¹⁸ He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow. ¹⁹ He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel. ²⁰ He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws. Praise the LORD.



Question: Do you have a personal, intimate relationship with God? What does it look like?

Sermon Notes:

Daily Devotions

Monday, January 4: Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17

Thanks be to you, Lord, who makes my enemies a footstool for my feet.

Tuesday, January 5: Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31

You alone are trustworthy, never going back on your Word.

Wednesday, January 6: Epiphany of the Lord, Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Lord, your love and mercy are like rain on a mown field. Wonderful and needed.

Thursday, January 7: Psalm 29; I Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 9:10-19a
God, you are powerful and majestic, I praise and worship you.

Friday, January 8: Psalm 29; I Samuel 16:1-13; I Timothy 4:11-16
Lord, you give strength to your people, you give them peace.

Saturday, January 9: Psalm 29 ; I Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Luke 5:1-11
Dear Jesus, please help me discern your voice so that I can follow your lead.

SOURCES CONSULTED

www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily

IMAGES: Google Images

BIBLES: Life Application Bible, Serendipity Bible, Max Lucado Life Lessons Study Bible
Gateway (NIVUK) version used

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