

DECEMBER 29, 2024  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER  
CHRISTMAS



*Christmas peace is a way of life.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple
Monday	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Hanna visits Samuel
Tuesday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Wednesday	Proverbs 1:1-7	How proverbs should be used
Thursday	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Ministry of the apostles
Friday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, give us the grace to grow in your ways that we may love others with a peace that passes understanding through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this food that helps us grow and be healthy. Just as you were once a child, bring joy, love, and peace to all the children of the world. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. (Colossians 3:15)



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### 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:

- How would you describe a relationship you have with a good friend?
- What words describe a person who lives a faith-filled life?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Colossians 3:12-17.

From the gift of baby Jesus to the sharing of gifts at Christmas, there is lots to feel good about this time of year. This reading of Colossians helps us to make those good feelings into a faith-filled way of life. We are to clothe ourselves each day as followers of Jesus and experience the power of love in Christ through our daily relationships. We are to embrace a life where we don't have to be number one. In Christ we have everything we need to face each day ready and content. We can be calm because the storms of life have already lost their power. We can sing for joy because we are forgiven and are free to forgive others as a way of saying, "I love you." With gratitude and thanksgiving, we can teach and learn from one another without embarrassment or resentment. Christmas is present in this passage because it is filled with the love of God and an active pursuit of peace that will not end. We are to live our lives in such a way that we "let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts" (v. 15) and as a way of saying to God, "Thank you for Jesus."

*Discuss:* When is a time you have experienced the love of Christ through your relationships with others?

*Pray:* **Loving God, in Christ you open for us a way of life filled with forgiveness, love, joy, and peace. For all that we celebrate this time of year, we give you thanks. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show forgiveness and peace to someone?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christmas is a season of twelve days. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He is also known for his love of animals and birds and felt they should be remembered during Christmas because they were present at the birth of Jesus. Think or talk about what animals you think may have been present at that time. Then go on a walk outside and observe all the animals, both wild and domesticated, that surround you in your neighborhood.

*Pray:* **Dear Lord, we praise you for all creation. We praise you for mountains and hills, for fruit trees and cedars, for wild animals and cattle, for creeping things, and flying birds. Amen.**



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