







**PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DAILY PRAYER GUIDE**  
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2019

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son  
from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14

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# PCPC PRAYER GUIDE INTRODUCTION

This guide has a simple aim: to help us grow in our love for God through time in His Word and prayer. The Bible teaches that in order to love God, we need a relationship with Him. Though we had caused alienation from God by our sin, God Himself has nevertheless provided for that relationship in his overcoming the alienation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is God the Son. In union with Christ, we now have intimate access to God as our heavenly Father. Scripture and prayer are the means through which we experience, apply, and enjoy that relationship. As we learn to pray, and as we learn to listen and obey the gracious overtures of God's Word, we learn to live as God's children, loving and trusting Him more fully.

## WHY DAILY PRAYER?

Why set aside fixed times every day for prayer? Why not simply pray unprompted, when the stirring comes? Practically speaking, we are creatures attuned to rhythms. We order our lives by sunrises and sunsets, by hours, weeks, seasons, and years. Daily prayer is a way of consecrating our ordinary rhythms to God, ensuring that all of life is offered to Him. C. S. Lewis once wrote, "Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done." And so it must. Our relationship with God should take hold of our schedules, as well as our hearts.

## WHY A PRAYER GUIDE?

Here are a few compelling reasons to use a prayer guide:

1. It helps us to pray regularly.

Sometimes we may not pray regularly because we may not know where to begin. A prayer guide takes the pressure off needing to make that decision anew every day. It repeatedly says, "Start here" and let God's Word lead you into prayer.

2. It helps us to pray biblically.

The majority of the reading is from Scripture. We will read through the Psalms, a book of the Bible meant especially for prayer and worship. One of the encouraging messages reiterated in the Psalms is that you do not have to put on a happy face to live the Christian life. Praying biblically allows us to pray the truth of who we are while growing in the hope of who we might yet become.

3. It helps us to pray communally.

Though we are praying individually, we are doing so together, specifically

as a church body. This book is meant for this flock, in this time and place. To know that others with whom God has joined us are reading and praying the same words encourages us in our common journey. Prayer is a communal activity as much as an individual one.

## **HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

Use this guide however may be helpful to you. For many, that means using it just as it is. For those who are in the habit of family worship, you can adapt the guide to read and pray together as a family.

Here are suggestions for each of the elements:

### **The Call to Worship**

The Call to Worship is God's initiating with you through His Word. Read the call, perhaps out loud. Receive God's invitation to worship Him as spoken to you in that moment.

### **The Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving**

Praise God for who He is as He has shown in His Word and in your life. Thank Him for His presence and gifts in your life.

### **The Readings**

We will spend time reading through the Psalms together. Get to know the words here, and you will better know Jesus Himself. There is no book of the Bible Jesus quoted more often than the Psalms.

The other Scripture Readings for this season are drawn from various passages in the Old and New Testaments that outline the unfolding work of God's grace in redeeming a people for Himself. These passages establish our need for a Messiah and celebrate Jesus Christ as our Redeemer and King. May the story of God's Word fill us with a vibrant hope in Jesus Christ this Advent & Christmas season.

### **Questions for Meditation**

We have given three questions to help create space and encouragement to listen and obey the Word of God. Use these questions to guide you as you go back to circle, highlight, or write notes in the margins.

### **Prayer of Confession**

This is an opportunity to repent for the ways we have missed the mark and to receive the grace we need for renewal and change. Ask God for mercy. Ask Him to help you become more like Christ.

### **Prayer of Supplication**

We will give a new opportunity each day for you to lift up people and

ministries in our community and around the world. You may also layout before God whatever burdens you carry as well as those others carry.

## **Weekly Collect**

The Weekly Collect is a way to conclude. All of the closing prayers draw from The Book of Common Prayer. They are called "collects" because they gather our prayers together and present them before God collectively as we go about our scattered lives. Pray this prayer as your own in the confidence that others are praying with you.

## **Sundays**

Sundays are unique as our time to gather and worship as a church family, to celebrate once again the victory of Christ over sin and death. There are only Psalm readings on Sunday because the liturgy of corporate worship is our primary focus. We have added a page for sermon notes.

## **A Note for Families**

This prayer guide can be a great tool for times of family worship. We suggest letting any of those who are able take turns reading each element. This ensures that everyone is involved in both hearing and speaking the Word of God with one another. During the Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving, you may each say something aloud, no matter how short or clumsy (we are all learners!). During the Prayer of Confession, take a minute to pray to God personally in the quiet of your own thoughts. This is just one way to use the guide as a family. We encourage you to explore how it might best help your own worship and devotion in your life together.

As a final word, there are many great reading plans, devotionals, and exercises to encourage in us a life of prayer. This is a way to pray, only one among many that has grown up in the history of God's people. Most important is not the method, but the reality of loving and trusting God. May your relationship with Him grow.

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

## Psalm 47:1-4

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

1 Clap your hands, all peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,  
a great king over all the earth.

3 He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.

4 He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

*Selah*

*Sermon Notes*

# MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

## Call to Worship

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:17-18)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 47:5-9

5 God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!  
8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.  
9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

## Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:1-15

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Family Ministry

### **Weekly Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

## Call to Worship

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. (Psalm 147:5)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 48:1-8

A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

- 1 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain,
- 2 beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.
- 3 Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.
- 4 For behold, the kings assembled; they came on together.
- 5 As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic; they took to flight.
- 6 Trembling took hold of them there, anguish as of a woman in labor.
- 7 By the east wind you shattered the ships of Tarshish.
- 8 As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will establish forever. *Selah*

### Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-17

- 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
- 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Judgment on Arrogance and Oppression
- 8 The LORD has sent a word against Jacob, and it will fall on Israel;
- 9 and all the people will know, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, who say in pride and in arrogance of heart:
- 10 "The bricks have fallen, but we will build with dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place."

11 But the LORD raises the adversaries of Rezin against him, and stirs up his enemies.

12 The Syrians on the east and the Philistines on the west devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

13 The people did not turn to him who struck them, nor inquire of the LORD of hosts.

14 So the LORD cut off from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day—

15 the elder and honored man is the head, and the prophet who teaches lies is the tail;

16 for those who guide this people have been leading them astray, and those who are guided by them are swallowed up.

17 Therefore the LORD does not rejoice over their young men, and has no compassion on their fatherless and widows; for everyone is godless and an evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Women's Ministry

### **Weekly Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

## Call to Worship

For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.  
(Psalm 149:4-5)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 48:9-14

- 9 We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.
- 10 As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.
- 11 Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments!
- 12 Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,
- 13 consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation
- 14 that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.

### Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

- 1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- 9 They shall not hurt or destroy

in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

#### **Prayer of Supplication**

Widows, elderly, and homebound in our church

#### **Weekly Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

## Call to Worship

Behold, God is my helper; the LORD is the upholder of my life. (Psalm 54:4)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 49:1-13

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

1 Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

2 both low and high, rich and poor together!

3 My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.

5 Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,

6 those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

7 Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,

8 for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice,

9 that he should live on forever and never see the pit.

10 For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish and leave their wealth to others.

11 Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they called lands by their own names.

12 Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.

13 This is the path of those who have foolish confidence; yet after them people approve of their boasts. *Selah*

### Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-4

2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,

who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,

whose coming forth is from of old,

from ancient days.

3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth.

**Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

**Prayer of Confession****Prayer of Supplication**

Healing and reconciliation in broken relationships

**Weekly Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

## Call to Worship

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! (Psalm 33:8)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 49:14-20

14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.

15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. *Selah*

16 Be not afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases.

17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him.

18 For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed—and though you get praise when you do well for yourself—

19 his soul will go to the generation of his fathers, who will never again see light.

20 Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

## Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53

1 Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;

he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned—every one—to his own way;

and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?

9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his  
death,  
although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his  
mouth.

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their  
iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the  
transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the  
transgressors.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

PCPC Elders

### **Weekly Collect**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

## Call to Worship

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.  
(Psalm 62:5)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 50:1-6

A Psalm of Asaph.

1 The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

3 Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.

4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! *Selah*

## Scripture Reading: Malachi 4

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

## Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

## Prayer of Confession

## Prayer of Supplication

Boxes of Blessing Volunteers and Recipients

## Weekly Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

## Psalm 50:7-15

- 7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak;  
O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.
- 8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
- 9 I will not accept a bull from your house  
or goats from your folds.
- 10 For every beast of the forest is mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.
- 11 I know all the birds of the hills,  
and all that moves in the field is mine.
- 12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and its fullness are mine.
- 13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?
- 14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High,
- 15 and call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

*Sermon Notes*

# MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

## Call to Worship

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! (Psalm 118:27)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 50:16-23

- 16 But to the wicked God says:  
"What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips?  
17 For you hate discipline,  
and you cast my words behind you.  
18 If you see a thief, you are pleased with him,  
and you keep company with adulterers.  
19 "You give your mouth free rein for evil,  
and your tongue frames deceit.  
20 You sit and speak against your brother;  
you slander your own mother's son.  
21 These things you have done,  
and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.  
22 "Mark this, then, you who forget God,  
lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!  
23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me;  
to one who orders his way rightly  
I will show the salvation of God!"

### Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1-3, 7

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

### Scripture Reading: Galatians 3:15-16

15 To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. 16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

**Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

**Prayer of Confession****Prayer of Supplication**

Children's Ministry

**Weekly Collect**

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

## Call to Worship

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope... (Psalm 130:5)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 51:1-6

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!
- 3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

### Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

- 1 And God spoke all these words, saying,
- 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
- 3 "You shall have no other gods before me.
- 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- 7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.
- 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or

the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Youth Ministry

### **Weekly Collect**

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

## Call to Worship

I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. (Psalm 86:12)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 51:7-14

- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

### Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

- 1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice cries:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.
- 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- 6 A voice says, "Cry!"

- And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.
- 9 Go on up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"
- 10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.
- 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

PCPC Staff

### **Weekly Collect**

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

## Call to Worship

10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! (Psalm 145:10)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 51:15-19

- 15 O LORD, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.  
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.  
18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;  
19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

### Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25

5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an

old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 19 And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." 21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. 22 And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. 23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. 24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, 25 "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Music and Performing Arts Ministry

### **Weekly Collect**

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

## Call to Worship

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] (Psalm 145:13)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 52:1-5

To the choirmaster. A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul, David has come to the house of Ahimelech.

1 Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?

The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

2 Your tongue plots destruction,

like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

3 You love evil more than good,

and lying more than speaking what is right. *Selah*

4 You love all words that devour,

O deceitful tongue.

5 But God will break you down forever;

he will snatch and tear you from your tent;

he will uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah*

### Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-45

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

English as a Second Language Ministry (ESL)

### **Weekly Collect**

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

## Call to Worship

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. (Psalm 145:21)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 52:6-9

6 The righteous shall see and fear,  
and shall laugh at him, saying,  
7 "See the man who would not make  
God his refuge,  
but trusted in the abundance of his riches  
and sought refuge in his own destruction!"  
8 But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.  
I trust in the steadfast love of God  
forever and ever.  
9 I will thank you forever,  
because you have done it.  
I will wait for your name, for it is good,  
in the presence of the godly.

### Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-56

46 And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
50 And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."  
56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

PCPC Volunteers

### **Weekly Collect**

Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

## Psalm 53:1-6

To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath. A Maskil of David.

- 1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."  
They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity;  
there is none who does good.
- 2 God looks down from heaven  
on the children of man  
to see if there are any who understand,  
who seek after God.
- 3 They have all fallen away;  
together they have become corrupt;  
there is none who does good,  
not even one.
- 4 Have those who work evil no knowledge,  
who eat up my people as they eat bread,  
and do not call upon God?
- 5 There they are, in great terror,  
where there is no terror!  
For God scatters the bones of him who encamps against you;  
you put them to shame, for God has rejected them.
- 6 Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
When God restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let  
Israel be glad.

*Sermon Notes*

# MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

## Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 54:1-7

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites went and told Saul, Is not David hiding among us?

- 1 O God, save me by your name,  
and vindicate me by your might.
- 2 O God, hear my prayer;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For strangers have risen against me;  
ruthless men seek my life;  
they do not set God before themselves. *Selah*
- 4 Behold, God is my helper;  
the Lord is the upholder of my life.
- 5 He will return the evil to my enemies;  
in your faithfulness put an end to them.
- 6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;  
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.
- 7 For he has delivered me from every trouble,  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

### Scripture Reading: Luke 1:57-80

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." 61 And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." 62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. 65 And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, 66 and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has visited and redeemed his people  
69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant  
David,  
70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
71 that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."  
80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the  
wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Young Adult Ministry

### **Weekly Collect**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.  
*Amen.*

# TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

## Call to Worship

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  
(Colossians 1:15)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 55:1-7

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David.

- 1 Give ear to my prayer, O God,  
and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!
- 2 Attend to me, and answer me;  
I am restless in my complaint and I moan,
- 3 because of the noise of the enemy,  
because of the oppression of the wicked.  
For they drop trouble upon me,  
and in anger they bear a grudge against me.
- 4 My heart is in anguish within me;  
the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 5 Fear and trembling come upon me,  
and horror overwhelms me.
- 6 And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!  
I would fly away and be at rest;
- 7 yes, I would wander far away;  
I would lodge in the wilderness; *Selah*

### Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1-8

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in

the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Singles in our church family

### **Weekly Collect**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.  
*Amen.*

# WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

## Call to Worship

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 55:8-19

- 8 I would hurry to find a shelter  
from the raging wind and tempest."  
9 Destroy, O LORD, divide their tongues;  
for I see violence and strife in the city.  
10 Day and night they go around it on its walls,  
and iniquity and trouble are within it;  
11 ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud  
do not depart from its marketplace.  
12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could bear it;  
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—  
then I could hide from him.  
13 But it is you, a man, my equal,  
my companion, my familiar friend.  
14 We used to take sweet counsel together;  
within God's house we walked in the throng.  
15 Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive;  
for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.  
16 But I call to God,  
and the LORD will save me.  
17 Evening and morning and at noon  
I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.  
18 He redeems my soul in safety  
from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me.  
19 God will give ear and humble them,  
he who is enthroned from of old, *Selah*  
because they do not change  
and do not fear God.

### Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:9-27

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were

inscribed— 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16 The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. 17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. 18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Families who have lost loved ones this year

### **Weekly Collect**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.  
*Amen.*

# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

## Call to Worship

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 55:20-23

- 20 My companion stretched out his hand against his friends;  
he violated his covenant.
- 21 His speech was smooth as butter,  
yet war was in his heart;  
his words were softer than oil,  
yet they were drawn swords.
- 22 Cast your burden on the LORD,  
and he will sustain you;  
he will never permit  
the righteous to be moved.
- 23 But you, O God, will cast them down  
into the pit of destruction;  
men of blood and treachery  
shall not live out half their days.  
But I will trust in you.

### Scripture Reading: Micah 4:1-7

- 1 It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the Lord  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and peoples shall flow to it,
- 2 and many nations shall come, and say:  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 3 He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore;

4 but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,  
and no one shall make them afraid,  
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

5 For all the peoples walk  
each in the name of its god,  
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God  
forever and ever.

6 In that day, declares the LORD,  
I will assemble the lame  
and gather those who have been driven away  
and those whom I have afflicted;

7 and the lame I will make the remnant,  
and those who were cast off, a strong nation;  
and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion  
from this time forth and forevermore.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Reformed University Fellowship International (RUF<sup>I</sup>)

### **Weekly Collect**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.  
*Amen.*

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

## Call to Worship

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 56:1-7

To the choirmaster: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths. A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me;  
all day long an attacker oppresses me;
- 2 my enemies trample on me all day long,  
for many attack me proudly.
- 3 When I am afraid,  
I put my trust in you.
- 4 In God, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.  
What can flesh do to me?
- 5 All day long they injure my cause;  
all their thoughts are against me for evil.
- 6 They stir up strife, they lurk;  
they watch my steps,  
as they have waited for my life.
- 7 For their crime will they escape?  
In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

### Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Time of Reflection

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

## **Prayer of Confession**

## **Prayer of Supplication**

Counseling & Care Ministry

## **Weekly Collect**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.  
*Amen.*

# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

## Call to Worship

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
(Colossians 1:17)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 56:8-13

- 8 You have kept count of my tossings;  
put my tears in your bottle.  
Are they not in your book?
- 9 Then my enemies will turn back  
in the day when I call.  
This I know, that God is for me.
- 10 In God, whose word I praise,  
in the Lord, whose word I praise,
- 11 in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.  
What can man do to me?
- 12 I must perform my vows to you, O God;  
I will render thank offerings to you.
- 13 For you have delivered my soul from death,  
yes, my feet from falling,  
that I may walk before God  
in the light of life.

### Scripture Reading: Titus 2:11 – 3:7

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

1 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being

justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

City Missions

### **Weekly Collect**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.  
*Amen.*

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

## Psalm 57:1-6

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

- 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,  
for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,  
till the storms of destruction pass by.
- 2 I cry out to God Most High,  
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
- 3 He will send from heaven and save me;  
he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah*  
God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!
- 4 My soul is in the midst of lions;  
I lie down amid fiery beasts—  
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
whose tongues are sharp swords.
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let your glory be over all the earth!
- 6 They set a net for my steps;  
my soul was bowed down.  
They dug a pit in my way,  
but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*

*Sermon Notes*

# MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

## Call to Worship

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... (John 1:11-12)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 57:7-11

- 7 My heart is steadfast, O God,  
my heart is steadfast!  
I will sing and make melody!
- 8 Awake, my glory!  
Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn!
- 9 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples;  
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
- 10 For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let your glory be over all the earth!

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:1-17

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father

of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

Our witness to those involved in building our new church doors

### **Weekly Collect**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

## Call to Worship

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.  
(Colossians 1:18)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 58:1-11

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David.

- 1 Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods?  
Do you judge the children of man uprightly?
- 2 No, in your hearts you devise wrongs;  
your hands deal out violence on earth.
- 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb;  
they go astray from birth, speaking lies.
- 4 They have venom like the venom of a serpent,  
like the deaf adder that stops its ear,  
5 so that it does not hear the voice of charmers  
or of the cunning enchanter.
- 6 O God, break the teeth in their mouths;  
tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!
- 7 Let them vanish like water that runs away;  
when he aims his arrows, let them be blunted.
- 8 Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime,  
like the stillborn child who never sees the sun.
- 9 Sooner than your pots can feel the heat of thorns,  
whether green or ablaze, may he sweep them away!
- 10 The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance;  
he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked.
- 11 Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous;  
surely there is a God who judges on earth."

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

For those who will fill our church once the building is completed

### **Weekly Collect**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

## Call to Worship

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
(John 1:14)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 59:1-5

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him.

- 1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;  
protect me from those who rise up against me;
- 2 deliver me from those who work evil,  
and save me from bloodthirsty men.
- 3 For behold, they lie in wait for my life;  
fierce men stir up strife against me.  
For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD,
- 4 for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.  
Awake, come to meet me, and see!
- 5 You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel.  
Rouse yourself to punish all the nations;  
spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. *Selah*

### Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-21

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

How God may be calling each person to connect with new relationships

### **Weekly Collect**

O God, You have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy Him perfectly in heaven; where with You and the Holy Spirit He lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

## Call to Worship

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 59:6-13

- 6 Each evening they come back,  
howling like dogs  
and prowling about the city.
- 7 There they are, bellowing with their mouths  
with swords in their lips—  
for "Who," they think, "will hear us?"
- 8 But you, O LORD, laugh at them;  
you hold all the nations in derision.
- 9 O my Strength, I will watch for you,  
for you, O God, are my fortress.
- 10 My God in his steadfast love will meet me;  
God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.
- 11 Kill them not, lest my people forget;  
make them totter by your power and bring them down,  
O LORD, our shield!
- 12 For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips,  
let them be trapped in their pride.  
For the cursing and lies that they utter,
- 13 consume them in wrath;  
consume them till they are no more,  
that they may know that God rules over Jacob  
to the ends of the earth. *Selah*

### Scripture Reading: Luke 2:22-38

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord  
23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")  
24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."  
25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.  
26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.  
27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for

him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

For our neighbors in Oak Lawn

### **Weekly Collect**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

## Call to Worship

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 59:14-17

- 14 Each evening they come back,  
howling like dogs  
and prowling about the city.
- 15 They wander about for food  
and growl if they do not get their fill.
- 16 But I will sing of your strength;  
I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.  
For you have been to me a fortress  
and a refuge in the day of my distress.
- 17 O my Strength, I will sing praises to you,  
for you, O God, are my fortress,  
the God who shows me steadfast love.

### Scripture Reading: Luke 2:39-52

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

**Prayer of Confession****Prayer of Supplication**

For our neighbors in Uptown

**Weekly Collect**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

## Call to Worship

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him... (Colossians 1:21-22)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 60:1-4

To the choirmaster: according to Shushan Eduth. A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.

- 1 O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;  
you have been angry; oh, restore us.
- 2 You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open;  
repair its breaches, for it totters.
- 3 You have made your people see hard things;  
you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.
- 4 You have set up a banner for those who fear you,  
that they may flee to it from the bow. *Selah*

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-23

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they

saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

For our neighbors in the Park Cities

### **Weekly Collect**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by Your daily visitation, that Your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

## Psalm 60:5-12

- 5 That your beloved ones may be delivered,  
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!
- 6 God has spoken in his holiness:  
"With exultation I will divide up Shechem  
and portion out the Vale of Succoth.
- 7 Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine;  
Ephraim is my helmet;  
Judah is my scepter.
- 8 Moab is my washbasin;  
upon Edom I cast my shoe;  
over Philistia I shout in triumph."
- 9 Who will bring me to the fortified city?  
Who will lead me to Edom?
- 10 Have you not rejected us, O God?  
You do not go forth, O God, with our armies.
- 11 Oh, grant us help against the foe,  
for vain is the salvation of man!
- 12 With God we shall do valiantly;  
it is he who will tread down our foes.

*Sermon Notes*

# MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

## Call to Worship

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.  
(Psalm 146:1-2)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 61:1-8

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. Of David.

- 1 Hear my cry, O God,  
listen to my prayer;
- 2 from the end of the earth I call to you  
when my heart is faint.  
Lead me to the rock  
that is higher than I,
- 3 for you have been my refuge,  
a strong tower against the enemy.
- 4 Let me dwell in your tent forever!  
Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! *Selah*
- 5 For you, O God, have heard my vows;  
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.
- 6 Prolong the life of the king;  
may his years endure to all generations!
- 7 May he be enthroned forever before God;  
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!
- 8 So will I ever sing praises to your name,  
as I perform my vows day after day.

### Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 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 bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

For new adult baptisms and professions of faith this year

### **Weekly Collect**

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

## Call to Worship

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!  
(Psalm 147:7)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 62:1-8

To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

- 1 For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.
- 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.
- 3 How long will all of you attack a man to batter him,  
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
- 4 They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.  
They take pleasure in falsehood.  
They bless with their mouths,  
but inwardly they curse. *Selah*
- 5 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from him.
- 6 He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- 7 On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
- 8 Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before him;  
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

### Scripture Reading: John 1:19-36

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

For a spirit of hospitality in our church and in our everyday lives

### **Weekly Collect**

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

## Call to Worship

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! (Psalm 148:1-2)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 62:9-12

- 9 Those of low estate are but a breath;  
those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up;  
they are together lighter than a breath.
- 10 Put no trust in extortion;  
set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.
- 11 Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God,
- 12 and that to you, O LORD, belongs steadfast love.  
For you will render to a man  
according to his work.

### Scripture Reading: Revelation 5:1-14

1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,

and they shall reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!"

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

For a spirit of generosity in time, talents, and treasure

### **Weekly Collect**

Eternal Father, You gave to Your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

# THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

## Call to Worship

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! (Psalm 148:3-4)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 63:1-11

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

- 1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.
- 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.
- 4 So I will bless you as long as I live;  
in your name I will lift up my hands.
- 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,  
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
- 6 when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
- 7 for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.
- 8 My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.
- 9 But those who seek to destroy my life  
shall go down into the depths of the earth;
- 10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword;  
they shall be a portion for jackals.
- 11 But the king shall rejoice in God;  
all who swear by him shall exult,  
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for

us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

EXTEND: New Doors

### **Weekly Collect**

Eternal Father, You gave to Your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

# FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

## Call to Worship

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. (Psalm 148:5-6)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 64:1-10

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- 1 Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint;  
    preserve my life from dread of the enemy.
- 2 Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked,  
    from the throng of evildoers,
- 3 who whet their tongues like swords,  
    who aim bitter words like arrows,
- 4 shooting from ambush at the blameless,  
    shooting at him suddenly and without fear.
- 5 They hold fast to their evil purpose;  
    they talk of laying snares secretly,  
    thinking, "Who can see them?"
- 6 They search out injustice,  
    saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search."  
    For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep.
- 7 But God shoots his arrow at them;  
    they are wounded suddenly.
- 8 They are brought to ruin, with their own tongues turned against them;  
    all who see them will wag their heads.
- 9 Then all mankind fears;  
    they tell what God has brought about  
    and ponder what he has done.
- 10 Let the righteous one rejoice in the LORD  
    and take refuge in him!  
    Let all the upright in heart exult!

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came

forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

EXTEND: New Churches

### **Weekly Collect**

Eternal Father, You gave to Your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

# SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

## Call to Worship

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!  
(Psalm 148:7-8)

## Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

### Psalm 65:1-13

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song.

- 1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,  
and to you shall vows be performed.
- 2 O you who hear prayer,  
to you shall all flesh come.
- 3 When iniquities prevail against me,  
you atone for our transgressions.
- 4 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,  
to dwell in your courts!  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
the holiness of your temple!
- 5 By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas;
- 6 the one who by his strength established the mountains,  
being girded with might;
- 7 who stills the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples,
- 8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.  
You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it;  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide their grain,  
for so you have prepared it.
- 10 You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.
- 11 You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
- 12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

### **Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46**

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

### **Time of Reflection**

What does God say in this passage that stands out to you?

What does it teach you about God and yourself?

How will you respond in faith and obedience today?

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Prayer of Supplication**

EXTEND: New City

### **Weekly Collect**

Eternal Father, You gave to Your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

# APPENDIX

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our LORD,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried:  
He descended into hell;  
The third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
The holy catholic church;  
The communion of saints;  
The forgiveness of sins;  
The resurrection of the body;  
And the life everlasting.  
*Amen.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

## A WAY OF PERSONAL EXAMINATION

Consider God's holiness and grace, manifest in the life of the Son, Jesus Christ.

Pray for God's presence and illumination. Ask God's Spirit to be with you and for your eyes to be open as you consider your day.

Examine yourself prayerfully:

Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalm 139:23-24)

Note the times throughout the day you have seen God at work in your circumstances and in your heart. Name those ways in which you have resisted God and His will.

Pray in deep gratitude for every sign of God's loving presence, and pray in sorrow, repenting of any place you have resisted His loving will.

Receive the Words of Assurance for the day, leaning on the promises and mercy of God.

Conclude in prayer, offering yourself body and soul, in your thoughts, words, and actions, as a living sacrifice to God, which is your spiritual worship.

# NOTES



