

December 29, 2024 • First Sunday of Christmas  
10:00am



**Zion** lutheran  
church

## WELCOME TO ZION

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve, even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here!

## HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed. The break room, on the left side of the hallway, provides a quiet space for nursing.

Throughout the service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. Please receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or praise of God rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

## Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • [zion@zionsa.org](mailto:zion@zionsa.org)

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.*

PRELUDE

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*  
arranged by Linda Lamb

Sarah Juhasz  
Handbells

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

*Please rise, as you are able.*

Section End

GATHERING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866  
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# WORD

*Scripture*

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Kathi Johnson

*Children may come forward for the Children's Chat while the rest of the congregation is seated.*

## FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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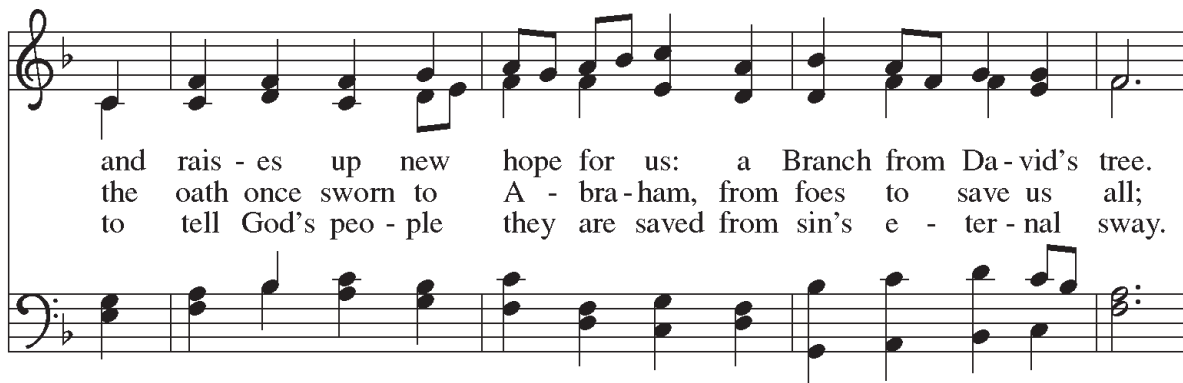
## SECOND READING: LUKE 1:57-67

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." <sup>61</sup>They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup>Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

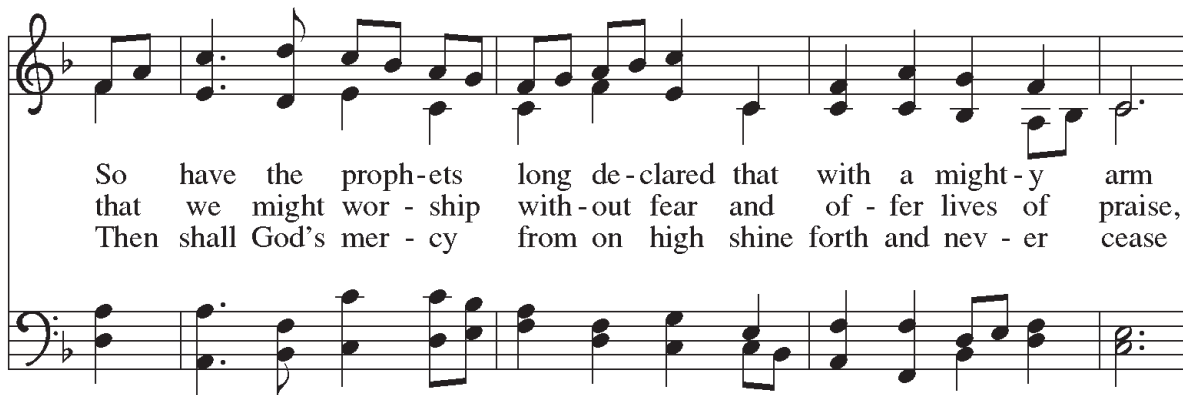
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-prepare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.  
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk music; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
 Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*; © Oxford University Press 1966. All rights reserved.  
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### THIRD READING: LUKE 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

FOURTH READING: LUKE 2:8-16

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

FIFTH READING: JOHN 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950  
 Music: DON PLAZAR, U. F. Segura, *Revel de natiu composé en langue portugaise*, 1856  
 Text © 1999 Integrity of Mission Music (USCA), so Integrity Music, Inc. 1000 Craig Road, Marietta, AL 36095.  
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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION COMPARE WITH KAREN

As we prepare for Immanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*Petitions end with:* Lord, in your mercy,

*Response:* **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers from our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Additional announcements and a schedule for the week are on the back pages of this bulletin.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

## OFFERING

*We give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit [ZionSA.org](http://ZionSA.org). Children may place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel (near the sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table for Holy Communion.*

## OFFERING MUSIC

*What Child is This?*  
arranged by Cathy Moglebust

Sarah Juhasz  
Handbells

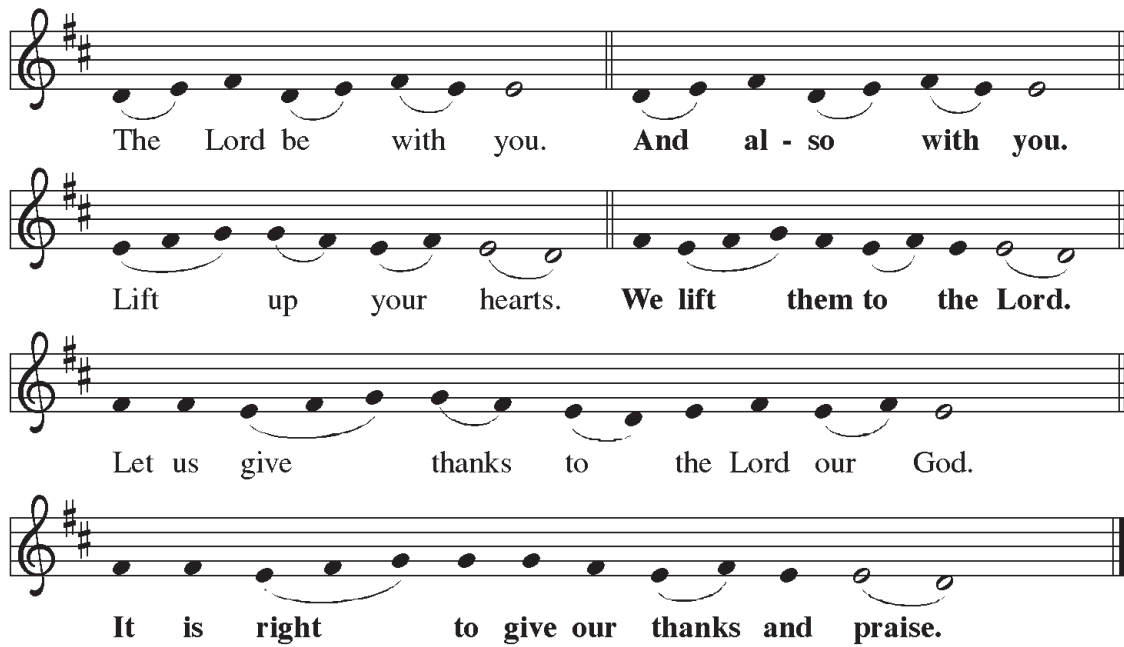
*Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God,  
**you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We thank you for the gifts gathered today, and the gifts of this holy meal. Strengthen us, that we may live in expectation of the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

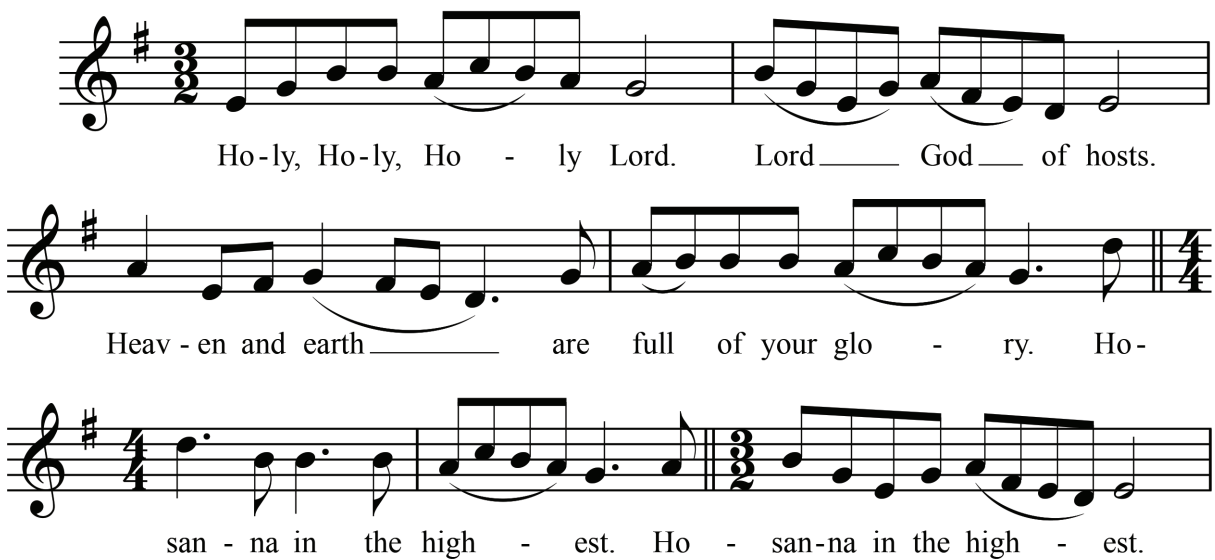
[Next page](#)

# GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord. Lord God of hosts.  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Bles - sed is he who comes in the\_\_ name of \_\_ the\_\_ Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come ✠ among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

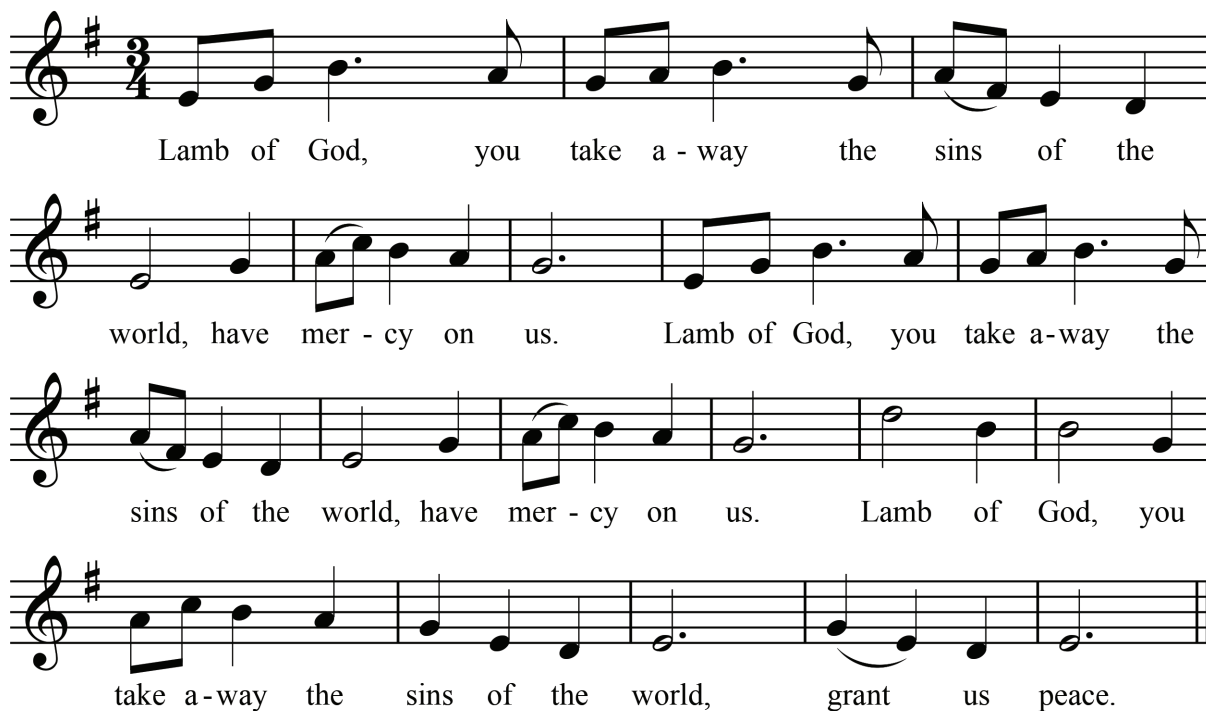
*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*Because this is the Lord's table, we welcome all to receive Holy Communion. If you'd like to receive a blessing instead, simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray for those unable to drink wine. After receiving Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.*

During this Advent season of waiting, we remain still to sing the "Lamb of God."

### LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

### COMMUNION MUSIC

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
arranged by Linda Lamb

Sarah Juhasz  
Handbells

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.  
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
 Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921; arr. David Willcocks, b. 1919  
 Arr. from *Cantata for Choirs 1*, © Oxford University Press 1960.

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*After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.*

## BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, and the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, and leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, and sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us, as we care for others in your name.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us out in peace.*

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *on next page*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news of God's love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Christmas Bell Medley*  
arranged by Christine Anderson

Sarah Juhasz  
Handbells

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### Available for Prayer

*Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for full calendar



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### Sunday, December 29

Service of Lessons and Carols in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio 10am Sanctuary & online

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### Tuesday, December 31

Staff Meeting 11am Breakroom  
Church office closed early 3pm  
Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2

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### Wednesday, January 1 New Year's Day

Church office closed  
Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Fellowship Hall  
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous 7pm Church 2

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### Thursday, January 2

Quilting for LWR 9:30 Fellowship Hall  
Dinner Out at Haywire's 6:30 Details below

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### Sunday, January 5

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary  
Intergenerational Advent Event 10:15 Fellowship Hall  
Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio 11:30 Sanctuary & online

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### Monday, December 6

Game Group 12:30 Fellowship Hall  
LMM Planning Mtg 6:30 Fellowship Hall

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### Dinner Out at Haywire's Thursday, January 2 at 6:30pm

The Dinner Out group will get together at Haywire at La Cantera. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30pm.

RSVP TODAY to Sandy or Jim Chillstrom,  
chillstrom@sbcglobal.net 210-695-6310 or 210-771-7573

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## Worship Support

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### Altar Guild

Doris Enderlin, Susan Johns  
Carrie Schmitzer, Amy Swanson  
Gina Williams

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### Lay Reader

Trisch Moy  
Jeff Williams

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### Communion Servers

Melanie Murray  
Brinkley Harrell

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### Livestream

David Umlang

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### Sound

Scott Van Doren

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### Ushers

David Umlang  
Bonnie & Brinkley Harrell  
Amy Swanson, Bev Rosel  
Brad & Liz McClain  
Linda Hansen  
Pam Gammage



**Zion is a  
Stephen Ministry  
Church!  
Stephen Ministers Are  
Care-Givers,  
God Is the Cure-Giver.**

The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with LeShea Clabough, our Stephen Ministry Leader. Get her contact information from the church office, 210-688-3090, or email her directly using this QR.



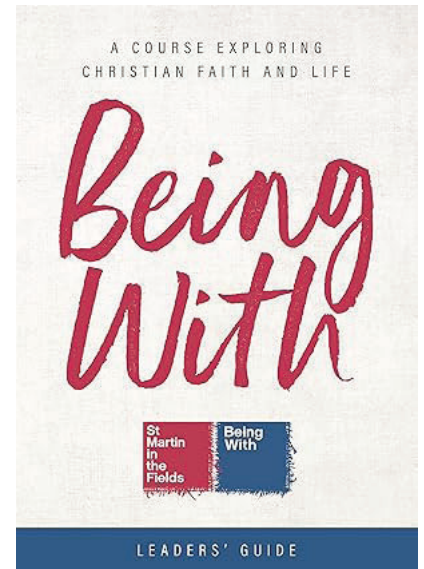
**New Series:**

***Being With***

**January 26 - March 30**

Starting January 26, the ten-week “Being With” course is an introduction to Christianity with a difference. At its heart is the idea that God’s greatest desire is to be with us in Jesus. Grounded in the conviction that we already have a wealth of understanding of truth, beauty and goodness that signify God’s presence in our lives and everyday experiences, it aims to enable participants to discover dimensions of this presence and to live abundantly with God, with one another and with creation.

The sessions focus on the themes of Meaning; Essence; Jesus; Church; Bible; Mission; Cross; Prayer; Suffering and Resurrection. Drawing on the practices of Godly Play, the course uses storytelling, wondering and reflection to encourage and welcome the insights that each person brings.



**Tickets on Sale  
for January 17 - 19  
and 24 - 26 Performances**

- Online theatre seating ticket sales are now open via this QR or [ZTG.Booktix.net](http://ZTG.Booktix.net).
- Dinner seating reservations may



[ZTG.Booktix.net](http://ZTG.Booktix.net)

- be made by email to [Theatre@ZionSA.org](mailto:Theatre@ZionSA.org)
- In-person sales and ticket pickup is in the gazebo on Sundays.



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## The Lutheran and Not-So-Lutheran Theology found in the Musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* January 12 at 10:15

Join music director Rob Mikulski on January 12 for a fun discussion of various theologies found within the lyrics of “Jesus Christ Superstar”. This class will meet in the Fellowship Hall during the Faith Formation hour.

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## Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Even if you don’t sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Come on out at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, on the first, third and fifth Thursdays. Contact Diane Stewart through the church office if you need more details.

The durable quilts we make are sent all over the world to be used as bedding, room dividers, and shelter. If you can’t make it to the quilting meetings, quilt tops can be sewn at home at your convenience. Fabric is provided.

*The LWR Quilters are always in need of new and gently used twin size and larger flat sheets for quilt backing. Sheets can be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall during any quilting time.*

*For more information on LWR quilting, go to [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) and click on “quilts.” Learn how a quilt can make a difference in someone’s life.*

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## Game Group

**Monday, January 6 and 20 at 12:30pm**

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Mondays. Contact Alaine Perry through the church office if you have questions.

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## Music Rehearsals Resume January 7

Handbells	Tuesday	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Children’s Choir (Gr 2-5)	Tuesday	7-7:45	MC 1
Youth Choir (Gr 6-12)	Tuesday	7-8pm	Music Apse
Chancel Choir (Adult)	Wednesday	7:15	Sanctuary

## OFFICE CONTACT



Mon-Thur 8:30am-5:00pm  
Friday close at 3:00pm



210-688-3090



Zion@ZionSA.org



Website ZionSA.org



Facebook ZionSA



Instagram @ZionSATX



9944 Leslie Road, 78254

## SUBSCRIBE TO

- Weekly Z-Mail
- Prayer Chain

For secure subscription info, send an e-mail to Karen at [Zion@ZionSA.org](mailto:Zion@ZionSA.org)



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**STAFF CONTACT** *Day Off*

Pastor Kathi Johnson *Monday*  
Senior Pastor  
kjohnson@ZionSA.org

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Pastor Dan Heim *Friday*  
Pastor, Youth & Family  
dheim@ZionSA.org

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Pastor Eileen Spehr  
Visitation Pastor  
visitation@ZionSA.org

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Suzie Wyatt *Thursday*  
Administrator *afternoon*  
swyatt@ZionSA.org

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Rob Mikulski *Monday*  
Music Director  
rmikulski@ZionSA.org

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Sammy Mikulski *Monday*  
Theatre Director  
theatre@ZionSA.org

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**2025 CONGREGATION  
COUNCIL**

Bud Halstead President

Karen Umlang Treasurer

Chris Jones

Erica Macha

Rachel Williams

Shiloh Love

Matt Iwanicki

Pr. Kathi Johnson Senior Pastor

Pr. Dan Heim Pastor

*Offices pending  
until January  
2025 meeting*

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**Crafty Bunch Resumes January 8  
Wednesdays at 9:00**

The Crafty Bunch meets in the Education Building on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double doors, behind Churches 1 and 2. The craft room is the first room on the left. Bring your own project to work on.

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**Midweek Services Resume January 8  
Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1**

Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

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**Weekday Bible Study Series: Book of Ruth  
Thursday, January 9 in MC Room 1**

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Come to Ministry Center Room 1 at 9:30am on the second and fourth Thursdays, through March 27.

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**Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship  
Monday, January 13 at 6:00pm**

Zion Zippers meet on the second Monday of each month for a potluck dinner, beginning at 6pm. If you're fifty years or older, you're invited. Please bring a dish or two to share with your Zipper friends. Bring your own plate and utensils if you can, and invite a friend, too!

After dinner, we'll set out the dice for Bunco - come join the fun! Contact Kathy Newman through the church office if you have a question or suggestion for a guest speaker or activity.

## Women of Zion Events in January

### • WOZ Bible Study & More

Second Tuesday January 14 at 10:00am

Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Fellowship, service projects with a Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited! Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send an e-mail to [WOZ@zionsa.org](mailto:WOZ@zionsa.org).



### • Women of Zion's General Meeting

will be held Thursday, January 16 at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. All women are invited. Your attendance and input are very important in planning events for the year. For more information, contact Diane Stewart through the church office.

**M**omCo, a Community for All Moms  
Wednesday, January 15 in MC Room 1  
Zion MomCo\* supports moms by building community for growth in faith and as parents.

Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month in Zion's Ministry Center from 9:30-noon. They also are in need of adult volunteers to provide child care those Wednesdays.

MomCo Registration



Scan the QR to register or volunteer, or contact Nicole Stender ([mops@zionsa.org](mailto:mops@zionsa.org)) to get more info!



**Men's Fellowship Dinner**  
Third Monday, January 20  
at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at El Chaparral Restaurant, 15103 Bandera Rd in Helotes, for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at [lmm@zionsa.org](mailto:lmm@zionsa.org) if you need more details.

*Your generosity  
empowers  
Zion's ministry*

From Sunday morning worship to feeding families for the holidays, collecting clothing for local charity or relief supplies shipped hundreds of miles, to friendships fostered worldwide with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your time, lend your skills, and support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.



<https://secure.myvanco.com/YJYN/campaign/C-YTT8>  
General Fund, updated 6/18/24

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**DECEMBER 29, 2024  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER  
CHRISTMAS**



*Christmas peace is a way of life.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

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

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

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

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

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

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

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

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

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

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



**DECEMBER 29, 2024**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*O Little Town of  
Bethlehem*



taking  
faith  
home

**WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

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

**DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* Colossians 3:12-17.

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

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

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

**SERVICE**



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

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



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

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



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