



Faith
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A community loving Christ,
building disciples, serving all

Are We There Yet?

Isaiah 35:1-10

*Haste thee on from grace to glory
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer
Heaven's eternal days before thee
God's own hand shall guide us there
Soon shall cease thy earthly mission
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days
Hope shall change to glad fruition
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise*

-Final verse of "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

Welcome, Guests!

Friends,

We are glad you are here with us and hope you sense God's presence in worship today. If there is any way we can be of help to you, don't hesitate to ask. Here are a few of the questions we often hear from our guests when they first visit:

- ~ **How long is the worship service here at Faith?** Our worship services typically run 60 to 70 minutes.
- ~ **How can I introduce myself?** We'd love to meet you after the service; don't hesitate to introduce yourself! You can also visit our webpage (www.faithpresby.org), and click on the "I'm New" tab and then the "Introduce Yourself" button. This is a great way to let the pastoral staff know who you are and how we might welcome and serve you. Also, stop by the Welcome Center on the way out. We have a gift waiting for you there!
- ~ **I have kids. Are they welcome here?** Absolutely! We love the sounds of children in the sanctuary. During the children's message at the 9:00 a.m. worship service, kids up to 6th grade are invited to come up front to listen in. Having them stay with you to listen is also fine. After the children's message, children are invited down the hall to Room 4 (grades 3 to 6) and Room 5 (Pre-K to 2nd grade) with our children's staff. Nursery care is available throughout the 9:00 a.m. worship service in Room 7.
- ~ **Are there classes for adults?** Yes. Check the bulletin and listen for announcements in worship about upcoming classes. We currently have in-person and online classes.
- ~ **What if I have trouble hearing the service?** If you have difficulty hearing, please ask one of our ushers for a personal receiver for the hearing impaired. Also, a T-Loop hearing-assist system is available in the back four pews on the right side of the sanctuary. Set your hearing aid to the "T" setting.
- ~ **How can I find out more information about Faith?** Feel free to speak to any of us and if we can't answer your questions, we'll find somebody who can. Our website is a great source of information: www.faithpresby.org. Also, *This Week @ Faith* is a weekly email that goes out on Mondays with information about upcoming opportunities and activities. Email Laura Anderson in our office at landerson@faithpresby.org if you'd like to be included on the email distribution list.
- ~ **What if I'm interested in exploring membership or deeper involvement at Faith?** If you'd like to know more about becoming a member at Faith, or want to understand how you can begin or continue to grow in your Christian faith, we encourage you to contact one of our pastors. You can call the church office at (916) 428-3439 or email one of our staff members. (Email addresses are available on our webpage and further on in this bulletin.) We'd love to meet you and find out how we can be of help.

Again, we are glad you are here with us today!

Grace and peace—The People of Faith



Faith Presbyterian Church of Sacramento

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Order of Worship

✠ *Those who are able, please stand.*
Please silence all electronics before the start of worship.

Prelude

Eunice Bancu

Greeting

Jeff Chapman

One: The Lord be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

✠ Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles *(from Isaiah 61:1-3)* Joel Gilbert (9:00) Jack Van Duyn (11:00)

One: Brothers and sisters, hear the good news the Spirit of God declares to us today!

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

One: He comes to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for captives and release from darkness for prisoners of all kinds!

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

One: He comes to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn!

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

One: For all who grieve, he comes to give a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair!

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

One: When he comes we will be called oaks of righteousness, planted by the Lord for the display of his splendor!

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

One: Let us worship God!

✠ Hymn of Praise *(All songs used by permission CCLI #676622)*

Come, Thou Almighty King
#139, The Presbyterian Hymnal

✠ Prayer of Confession

Brett Shoemaker

✠ Response to Confession

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pass the peace of Christ.

✠Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Welcome

Jeff Chapman

Prayer of Remembrance

Anthem (11:00)

Faith Chancel Choir

Sing We Now of Christmas (Noël Nouvelet, French carol; arr. K. Pederson)

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near.
Sing we Noel, sing we now of Christmas,
Sing we now Noel.

Angels bending low, shepherds bend their knee,
Wisemen from the east, all have come the child to see.
All of creation where love has come to dwell;
Sing we now of Christmas, the good news that we tell.
Sing Noel!

In stillness lays the world in silent reverie;
Longing for the birth of love and mercy.
Yearning for hope, good news to fill our souls;
Turning to the manger that grounds all mystery.

Children's Message

Jeff Chapman

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

April Reichert (9:00); Lucy DaCastello (11:00)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*At this point in the 9:00 service, children pre-K to 6th grade are invited
either to be excused to our children's programs or to return and sit with their families.*

Prayer of Illumination

Message

Jeff Chapman

Are We There Yet?

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Brett Shoemaker

**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.**

Giving & Receiving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

April Reichert (9:00)
Lucy DaCastello (11:00)



*After worship, you may place your offering in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.
If you would like to give online, you may do so at faithpresby.org, under the "Give"
tab. This QR code will take you directly there.*

✠Doxology (*literally, Words to Glorify*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠Prayer of Dedication

✠Hymn of Faith

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
#376, The Presbyterian Hymnal

✠Benediction

✠Postlude

Eunice Bancu

*If you would like to have somebody pray with you for any reason,
there will be a prayer team available in the front row immediately after worship this morning.
Prayer Team: Randy Smith (9:00) and Renee Larsen & Ileana Maestas (11:00)*

New to Faith? *We'd like the chance to meet you!*

If you are new to Faith Church, we would like to invite you to an informal reception so we can get to know you, and in turn you can get to know us. Our next Look @ Faith reception is **January 25 at 10:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room.**

The reception lasts about 30 minutes. You'll have the opportunity to get to know others who have been coming to Faith, meet some of our leadership, and learn a few things about what makes this congregation unique. You may have questions about this church or about the Christian faith, and that's great—feel free to ask! This is just an informal opportunity to get to know one another. Come join us! *For more info, email Laura at landerson@faithpresby.org.*



2026 Flower Calendar Available

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in 2026 in honor of a special person or event or in memory of a loved one, the 2026 flower calendar is now ready for your sign-ups. You'll find it posted across from Room 2.

When you sign up, please write neatly and include both your name and phone number. As your sign-up date draws near, Janet Leader, who is Faith's flower coordinator, will contact you about your bouquet.



Announcements and Events

Family Ministry



For questions about Faith's Sunday morning children's programs, contact Lindsay Stanford, Director of Family Ministry, at lstanford@faithpresby.org.

Congregational Meeting This Morning

We will have a brief congregational meeting **this morning, December 14, after the 11:00 service.** The only agenda item will be the approval of the 2026 Terms of Call for Pastors Brett Shoemaker and Jeff Chapman. All members should plan to attend.

December's PresbyNews

If you have not yet had the chance to read it, the December edition of Faith's monthly newsletter, the PresbyNews, is available in the Welcome Center. You will also find the full color version online at faithpresby.org, under the Media tab. No matter how you access it, don't miss this opportunity to catch up on the happenings at Faith. And you'll definitely want to read the bios from some of our newest members. Enjoy!

Faith Office Holiday Hours

The Faith Church office will be open regular hours this week. Looking forward to Christmas and New Year's, the office will be closed on December 25 and 26, as well as January 1 and 2.



Like us on Facebook at
facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianChurch

GRADES 7-12!

YOUTH GROUP

THIS WEDNESDAY!

DON'T MISS OUR ➡

Contact Brett Shoemaker for more info
and to get on our email list:
bshoemaker@faithpresby.org



Opportunities to Learn & Connect

Starts This Morning

What Walmart Can't Tell You: The Theology of Christmas

December 14 & 21

10:15 a.m., Grace Room

Facilitator: Rev. Rick Hull

Just as we find the redemptive plan of God in every aspect of Old and New Testament scriptures, so the theology of our Lord's grace and calling can be found throughout the story of Christmas. In this short study, we rediscover the theological foundations of our culture's most universally celebrated occasion, and claim again the account of a message that transcends presents and poinsettias to transform hearts and change the world. Moving from the loveliness of mere celebration to the cosmic love of God, this is the story that the world needs to hear, and the joy that will lift hearts long after the ornaments go back in the box.



Give Life Groups a Try!

Three-Week "Taster" Is Coming

Many of us here at Faith have found great joy through participating in Life Groups. These are

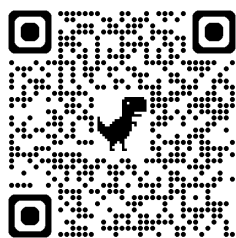
LifeGroups

small groups that meet weekly or bimonthly to study Scripture, reflect on the sermons, pray, fellowship, share a meal, and sometimes serve together. At their heart, Life Groups are an opportunity to "do" life together, hence the name.

Here is a chance for you to give Life Groups a try before making a long-term commitment. On Sundays, January 11, 18 and 25, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. in Room 2, we will host a Life Group "Taster." You'll have the chance to experience what has kept so many people coming back week after week, year after year, to their Life Groups. At the end of these three weeks, you'll have the option to join an ongoing Life Group or to be a part of starting a new one. Interested? Email Pastor Jeff Chapman to save your spot (jchapman@faithpresby.org).

Learn to Use Faith's AEDs

You may have noticed Faith's two new AEDs -- Automated External Defibrillators. One is located in the Welcome Center, and the other is in the Link Hall foyer. We would like to train as many people as possible to use these devices so that we are better prepared as a congregation to save a life if ever that is needed.



Our Worship Team will be heading up an in-person training in early 2026, and we hope you will consider attending. In the meantime, if you would like to become familiar with how to use these life-saving devices, these QR codes will take you to online training videos. The code on top is for a basic, six-minute instructional video. The code on the bottom is for a more comprehensive, 38-minute video.



As a Reminder...

- ✓ *Don't have a name tag? Sign up for one in the Welcome Center. Within a week or two, you'll find your new name tag ready for you on the name-tag wall. (Tags are arranged alphabetically by last name.)*
- ✓ *Printed copies of today's sermon will be available this coming week in the Link Hall foyer. Past messages are available on the church website.*
- ✓ *A reminder to parents: Thank you for picking up your children from Sunday School or the nursery within five minutes of the end of the service.*



Like us on Facebook at
facebook.com/FaithPresbyterianChurch

Year-End Financial Deadlines

As 2025 draws towards its close, Faith's Finance Team wants to be sure you are aware of these important deadlines for giving and for payment of reimbursements and invoices:

If you would like your **giving** to be counted in 2025, it must be received in the office on or before Wednesday, December 31, or postmarked in 2025.

For those requesting **reimbursement** for purchases made for the church in 2025, completed Request for Reimbursement (RFR) forms that include the elder's authorizing signature must be submitted to Marlys Emery, Faith's Financial Assistant, by the end of the day on **Wednesday, December 17**. If you leave an RFR in an elder's mailbox for signature, be sure to contact that elder promptly and let him or her know it is there. Remember that he or she will need enough advance notice so as to have time to swing by the church and complete and submit the form to Marlys by December 17th.

Any **invoice** to be paid out of the 2025 budget year must be submitted to Marlys Emery, along with the completed Request for Payment form, by the end of the day on **Wednesday, December 17**.

If you have any questions, please contact Finance Elder Karen Chan (chanmetz16@gmail.com).

Christmas Joy Offering ~ Next Sunday, December 21

The Perfect Gift

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh – fully human and fully God – became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us – leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present and future – who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers, and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ. Please give generously to the **Christmas Joy Offering next Sunday, December 21, 2025**.



Congregational Meeting

At today's congregational meeting after the 11:00 service, we will be voting on changes in the terms of call (salary and benefits) for our two ordained pastors, Jeff Chapman and Brett Shoemaker. Any changes in the terms of call for ordained ministers is proposed by Session but must be voted on and approved by the congregation. As a reminder, the remainder of the 2026 budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 25, 2026. Here are the changes which are being proposed today:

Account	2024 Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget	Change
Chapman Salary	\$71,773	\$74,168	3%
Chapman Housing	\$50,000	\$50,000	0%
Chapman Pension/Med	\$49,944	\$53,182	6%
Chapman Study Leave	\$2,500	\$7,500	200%
Shoemaker Salary	\$48,560	\$48,634	0%
Shoemaker Housing	\$40,221	\$42,633	6%
Shoemaker Pension/Med	\$38,362	\$42,770	11%

Encountering Jesus on the Road

a midwinter's reflective retreat

Come and rest in the goodness of the Lord!

Sunday, January 11, 2026

5:00—6:30 p.m.

Faith Sanctuary

With Thanks from Faith's Crafters!

Faith's Crafters would like to express their gratitude to everyone who stopped by to shop at last week's craft sale. Thanks to your generous purchases, they raised over \$2,500. These funds will be given to the SSIP Food Closet to support them in their work as they provide for our food-insecure neighbors.

As seasons and situations have changed for Faith's Crafters, this was likely their last craft sale. They are so grateful for your support over the years! Because of you, they were able to raise tens of thousands of dollars, every penny of which has gone "out the door" in support of local and global mission efforts. Even as you enjoy the cozy items you bought, know that your purchase continues to have a Gospel impact somewhere in our world. Thank you!



Serving on Sunday at Faith

	Serving Today (12/14)		Serving Next Sunday (12/21)	
	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Joel Gilbert	Jack Van Duyn	Sydney Ndichu	Ben Chand
Coffee Hosts	Karena & Mike Van Duyn	Ken Finch Tanis Toland	John & Stephanie Homen	Cathy Coupal Bonnie Schrader
Communion Servers	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Greeters	Dennis & Margie Montzingo	Jarvis Arellano Rich & Janelle Hendricks	Bill Edgar & Linda Olsen-Edgar	Lori Rapier Vickie Weaver Owens
Lock-up	N.A.	Bob Bagby	N.A.	Jon Coupal
Media Center Techs	Dave Anders Paul Kinney	Anthony Shelton	David Nash Anthony Shelton	Jon Coupal
Pew Crew	<i>Serving 12/15—12/18</i>	Cheryl Chan	<i>Serving 12/21—12/23</i>	Michele Yarbrough
Prayer Team	Randy Smith	Renee Larsen Ileana Maestas	Sherry Beams Rich Hendricks	Chelle Ellis
Teller Escorts	Jennifer Anders	Jarvis Arellano	Bill Edgar	Paul Heaton
Tellers	N.A.	Jarvis Arellano Kitty Tatro	N.A.	Bill Edgar Paul Heaton
Ushers	Sheila Sanders	Sylvia Warner	Roy Chastain	Jarvis Arellano
Welcome Ctr.	Marianne Jenkins	Georgianne Becker Kay Lum	Candi Okada	Carolyn Kubish
Worship Asst.	April Reichert	Lucy DaCastello	Claire Pisor	Vickie Weaver Owens

Faith Worship Band: Eunice Bancu, Michaela Bannerman, Shane Bannerman, Esther Chapman, Andrew Chen, Sue Kim, Cindi Kinney, Paul Kinney, Carolyn Kubish, Paul Philleo, Zach Roberts, Mark Tootle, Makayla Van Duyn, Vickie Weaver-Owens and Jill Whitney.

Faith Brass Ensemble: José Hermocillo, Tom McDuffie, Fred Noteware, Dan Pehrson, Steve Rock, Laura Schneider and Carolyn Tillman (Director).

Faith Chancel Choir: Cynthia Abbott, Gregory Collins, Joe De Illy, Sally Evey, Jessica Flash, Paul Heaton, Janeil Hogue, Dane Huntingdale, Sue Kim, Cindi Kinney, Paul Kinney, Carolyn Kubish, Barbara LaPlaca, Kay Lum, Phil Lum, Betsy Pehrson, Dan Pehrson, Paul Philleo, Ken Pisor, April Reichert, Edna Rush and Charlotte Van Wagner.

Faith Staff Members ~ Contact Us

Laura Anderson ~ Office Manager

Eunice Bancu ~ Accompanist

Jeff Chapman ~ Pastor/Head of Staff

Marlys Emery ~ Financial Assistant

Kimberly MacArthur ~ Interim Director of Congregational Care

Brett Shoemaker ~ Associate Pastor

Lindsay Stanford ~ Director of Family Ministry

Mark Tootle ~ Director of Music Ministry

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All Members of the Church ~ Ministers

Faith Presbyterian Church ~ 625 Florin Road, Sacramento, 95831 ~ www.faithpresby.org ~ (916) 428-3439

This Week @ Faith: December 14–20

SUNDAY

- **Worship—9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)**
- Adult Sunday School—10:15 a.m. (Grace Rm)
- Deacons Meeting—12:30 p.m. (Link Hall)
- Recital (Outside Group)—2 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- Immanuel Indonesian Church—4 p.m. (Link Hall)
- AA Meeting—7 p.m. (Rm 2)

MONDAY

- Faith Staff Meeting—9 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Faith Crafters—1 p.m. (Rm 2)
- Men's Life Group—1:30 p.m. (Choir Rm)
- Women's AA Meeting—7 p.m. (Rm 2)

TUESDAY

- Morning Prayer—7:30 a.m. (Online)
- AA Meeting—8 p.m. (Rm 2)

WEDNESDAY

- Women's Life Group—10 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Youth Group Progressive Dinner—5:30 p.m. (Meet in parking lot, then off-site)
- Worship Band Rehearsal—6 p.m. (Choir Rm)
- **Service of Lessons & Carols—7 p.m. (Sanctuary)**
- Men's AA Meeting—7 p.m. (Rm 2)

THURSDAY

- Men's Life Group—7:30 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Staff Prayer—9 a.m. (Online)
- Women's Life Group—9:30 a.m. (Fireside Rm)
- Women's Life Group—10:30 a.m. (Grace Rm)
- Choir Rehearsal—7 p.m. (Sanctuary, Choir Rm)
- AA Meeting—8 p.m. (Rm 2)

FRIDAY

- No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY

- Tai Chi—8:30 a.m. (Courtyard)
- Faith Brass Ensemble Rehearsal—9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Calendar at a Glance

Upcoming dates of note in our life at Faith

December 17	Service of Lessons & Carols
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.
January 11	“Evening of Reflection” Mini -Retreat
January 25	Annual Meeting of the Congregation
February 18	Ash Wednesday
February 25	Lenten Midweek Worship (Also 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25)
April 2	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 3	Good Friday Worship
April 5	Easter
April 10-12	Women's Retreat
April 26	Walk4Water
May 1-3	Men & Boys' Retreat
May 24	Pentecost
June 15-19	Vacation Bible School
July 27-30	Academy of Arts, Week 1
August 3-6	Academy of Arts, Week 2
August 9	AOA Performance
September 11-13	All-Church Fall Retreat

*The Faith Church office is open
Monday to Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
and Friday by appointment.*

Faith Presbyterian Church of Sacramento
“The Next Step”

A Resource for Life Groups and/or Personal Application

December 14, 2025

Isaiah 35:1-10 (NRSV)

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Message Notes

Are We There Yet?

Questions to Consider...

The following questions and scriptures are provided for Life Groups and individuals who want to reflect further on today's message.

1. Read Isaiah 35:1-10 again. This passage is filled with stunning imagery. What image is the most stunning to you? What image most stands out?
2. If this is a prophecy about what the Lord is going to do in our world, what parts of this passage do you find hard to believe? What parts do you find easy to believe?
3. Jeff mentioned that there are four aspects of the coming kingdom “superbloom” which are highlighted in these verses. Which one stands out to you? Which one do you need to hear today? Why?
The glory of God will be revealed
The Lord will come
The Lord will set things right
We will travel on The Way
4. How do you find yourself “sighing” these days? What do you do when everything seems hopeless? Where do you turn?
5. The passage exhorts us to strengthen weak hands, make firm feeble knees, and tell those with fearful hearts to be strong. What are practical ways we can actually encourage one another when the journey towards glory seems so overwhelmingly long and difficult that we want to give up?
6. What is it that you are waiting for God to do right now? How long have you been waiting? Do you believe he will do it?
7. How much of the time should we be anticipating what is to come in the Kingdom of Heaven? Can one think about this too much? It was apparently Oliver Wendell Holmes who criticized those he thought were “too heavenly minded to be of any earthly good.” Is that a danger?
8. Is there laughter in heaven? Is that how you picture it? If so, what will people be laughing about?



Table to Table: Something for kids and adults to consider together

Read through this passage again as a family. See if you can make a list of at least five things the Lord promises to do in our world. Can you list more than five?

Meeting With God This Week

To help you LISTEN to God...

For your continued times of meeting with God daily, we offer the following passages from God's Word for your reflection. If you need a Bible, let us know and we'll give you one. We encourage you to keep a journal at hand to write down what you hear as you listen to God's Word. If you are new to all this, these steps may help you get started:

Invite - Find a time and space where you can have at least fifteen minutes of privacy and silence. Begin by taking a moment to simply ask God to meet you. Expect God to answer your prayer and show up.

Scripture - Read slowly through the passage for the day (we offer suggestions below). Read it again, if you like. Pay attention to phrases or ideas that particularly strike you.

Listen and Reflect - Use a journal to write down what you hear God saying in these verses. What is God telling you about himself? What is God telling you about your life? What is God telling you he wants you to do or to do differently? What questions are raised? What promises are revealed? Write what you hear.

Respond - Use the 3 R's. **#1 - Rejoice!** What have I heard from God which causes me to praise God and give thanks? Pray accordingly. **#2—Repent.** What have I heard from God that brings to light sin in my life or change that needs to take place? **#3—Request.** What have I heard from God that informs the way I pray for myself and others? (The guide in the column to the right, "To Help You Speak with God," may be useful as you pray for others this week.)

Suggested Scriptures for the Week, as we offer God a portion of each day in His Word.

Monday:	Luke 15 / Psalm 130
Tuesday:	Luke 16 / Psalm 131
Wednesday:	Luke 17 / Psalm 132
Thursday:	Luke 18 / Psalm 133
Friday:	Luke 19 / Psalm 134
Saturday:	Luke 20 / Psalm 135
Sunday:	Luke 21 / Psalm 136

To help you SPEAK with God...

♦Pray for Our Faith Family, Especially...

Shirley Link ~ Susan Little; Emily Martin ~ Phil & Kay Lum ~ Kimberly MacArthur; Carl, Michael ~ Ileana Maestas & Jeff Selling; Isabel, Max

♦Prayers for Healing & Comfort:

For Healing & Strength: Carol Keller, Bob Johnson, Clara Murrels, Kristen Bye, Barbara Tracy, Cheryl Chan, Georgina Borton, Beverly Sommerdorf, John Ellis, Sandy Smoley, Lyndon Thomson, Nick LaPlaca, Barbara Hull, Skip Watt, Julene Leonard.

Prayers of Comfort: For David Nash upon the recent passing of his father. For the Reyes Family—Richard, Natalie Boylan and Danielle—upon the recent passing of their wife and mother, Shari.

♦Church Leadership:

Laura Anderson	Office Manager
Lucy DaCastello	Elder, Stewardship
Bob Bagby	Deacon, Parish 1

♦Other Opportunities for Prayer

Prayer Chain: Contact Alice Parente at vsas77@earthlink.net to share a prayer concern or to become part of the prayer chain.

Pre-Service Prayer: We meet in the Fireside Room every Sunday morning at 8:30 for prayer before worship. All are welcome.

Prayer After Worship: If you would like someone to pray with you, our prayer team will be available at the front of the church immediately following worship this morning.

Tuesday Morning Zoom Prayer Gathering: All are welcome to join us for prayer on Zoom Tuesday mornings from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. Using a psalm or other scripture as our guide, we pray together—some silently, some aloud. Most of us keep our cameras off. It's wonderful to start our day in this way together. The Zoom ID is **871 3470 6671**.

Advent & Christmas at Faith

Give 1% (at least) During Advent

We invite you to dedicate at least 1% of your day each day (about 15 minutes) in Advent to read through Luke's Gospel. See the reading list on the bottom left of the previous page. What a wonderful way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas!

Lessons & Carols (12/17): Our music team will lead us in an evening of carol singing interspersed with Gospel readings celebrating the birth of Christ. Be ready to sing along! Join us at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments by the fire pit will follow.

Wednesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (7:00 & 11:00 p.m.)

We will gather by candlelight to celebrate together the coming of Christ into our world. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated. The 7:00 service will include child-friendly elements. This service will be livestreamed. Also, Rachel Songer will be our guest vocalist. Rachel has sung at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center in New York and, closer to home, the Mondavi Center in Davis. Our 11:00 service will be contemplative in nature. At this service, Kristina McMillen will be our guest pianist/organist, joining Eunice for exciting double-keyboard music.

Sundays, December 28 & January 4 ~ Christmas Worship (9:00 and 11:00 a.m.)

The season of Christmas lasts 12 days, including these two Sundays. Come and continue the celebration with us. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on both of these special Sundays. On December 28, at both services, we will have the opportunity to enjoy Delta Strings, a string quartet that includes members of Sacramento's Camellia Symphony Orchestra. They will also play for us during our special "First Sunday of Christmas Sabbath Celebration" that day, taking place in Link Hall between services.

