




Live your faith 25 December 2020

Read, pray, reflect and live your faith this week



 This week's Bible readings Isaiah 9.2-7 · Psalm 96 · Titus 2.11-14 · Luke 2.1-20

The peace of the manger

Notes on the Bible readings

- The story opens with tremendous disruption and movement. But from this mass movement of people, we zoom in to observe a particular couple, Joseph and Mary. And Mary is pregnant and due to give birth. Then, after the noise and the messiness of birth (skipped over!), the manger is the 'still point' in the narrative. The peace of this manger is briefly interrupted by noisy shepherds who were amazed at what they had seen and heard. But the narrative slows down again when they leave, and we can focus on Mary. We are given a brief and rare glimpse of her inner life as she treasures the memories and ponders the implications.

- The story, as it is told by Luke, is a reminder that there are events in the world that grab all the headlines and make all the noise, but we are encouraged to look beneath the surface for the still small things where God is moving. It also reminds us that we can encounter the wonder of God in the ordinary humdrum of everyday working lives.

Be still

Find a moment of stillness in the Christmas mayhem! Today is probably one of the busiest days of the year, but find a moment to gather everyone around the Advent/Christmas candles (or a suitable Christmas card or scene) and, in the middle of this busyness, invite everyone who is sharing the day with you to be still and silent for just a minute or two.

FREE worship at home resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at:
www.rootsontheweb.com

A question for reflection

- ▶ How would you respond knowing that God's call will change your life for ever?



A prayer of adoration

*We sing a song today, a song for all,
of the wonder of your goodness.
Authority resting on the small shoulders of a child
who calls us all to everlasting peace.
Amen. Amen. Amen.
Praise be to you, O God, born among us.*

A prayer for others

*Today, in all the demands, we pray for those who are facing a
Christmas without someone they love.
Today, in all the delights, we pray for those who are facing a
Christmas alone.
Today, in all the celebration, we pray for those who are facing
conflicts.
Today, in all the time at tables, we pray for those who are hungry.
God of goodness hear us and be with us. Amen.*

A personal prayer

*Bringing all that I bring to you today, my thoughts, my feelings,
my hopes, the things that have worked out, and the things that
haven't, the joys and sadnesses: I offer them to you, knowing that
you will accept everything I bring, because I bring it and offer it to
you. Amen.*

Live your faith

When the Christmas lunch/dinner is being served, think about how you will carve out time from your busy schedule to celebrate the coming of Jesus.



The following services available on our YouTube channel

Blue Christmas Memorial Service.

Nine Lessons and Carols.

The Nativity - an animated retelling of the Christmas story.

From 25th December - Sung Communion for Christmas Day

From 27th December - Sung Communion for the first Sunday of Christmas

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Christmas Greetings from Janet Salt and John Harding



There will be no service in the Community Centre on Sunday 27th December. A service will be available that day on YouTube.

To book in for 3rd January please contact Phil Welling.



There will be no newsletter for the 3rd January.

Daily Readings for week commencing 28 th December 2020		
Monday	Genesis 37: 13-20	Matthew 18: 1-10 <i>The Holy Innocents</i>
Tuesday	Isaiah 57: 15-end	John 1: 1-18
Wednesday	Isaiah 59: 1-15a	John 1: 19-28
Thursday	Isaiah 59: 15b-end	John 1: 29-34
Friday	Genesis 17: 1-13	Romans 2: 17-end
Saturday	Isaiah 60: 1-12	John 1: 35-42

Daily Readings for week commencing 4 th January 2021		
Monday	Isaiah 61	John 2: 1-12
Tuesday	Isaiah 62	John 2: 13-end
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31: 7-14	John 1: 29-34
Thursday	Isaiah 63: 7-end	1 John 3
Friday	Isaiah 64	1 John 4: 7-end
Saturday	Isaiah 65: 1-16	1 John 5: 1-12

Pray for those in need...Sally, Zena, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy Lily, Mandy and Joyce. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...**William Orgee