DECEMBER 27, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS

taking faith home

The sight of baby Jesus brings peace.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple
Monday	Isaiah 61:10–62:3	Rejoice in the Lord
Tuesday	Galatians 4:4-7	Adoption as God's children
Wednesday	Jude 1-2	A prayer for blessing
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	A time for everything
Friday	Psalm 8	Divine majesty and human dignity
Saturday	Psalm 148	All creation praises God
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation." **Luke 2:29-30 (NRSVUE)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God, give us faith to walk in peace each day and to trust your eternal care for us and for all the world through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Praise the Lord, all you people; for our Savior Jesus and for this gift of food, praise the Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May Jesus, the light of the world, give you peace.

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The "Four Key Faith Practices"—Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions—are a framework developed by the Rev. Dr. David Anderson. For a brief description, go to: https://milestonesministry.org/history-of-the-four-keys/.

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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Away in a Manger

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Tell or think about a recent mountain high and valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When something painful happens, where do you look for hope?
- When have you experienced peace?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:22-40.
Luke 2:29-32 is known as Simeon's song or the *Nunc Dimittis* (which are the first words of this passage in Latin), and it is sometimes used in worship, before bed, or at the deathbed of a loved one. Simeon makes it clear that, in Jesus, God has acted in a way that now gives peace for all people, including Gentiles (everyone who is not Jewish). God had promised the Jewish people, the Israelites, that the whole world would be blessed through their family. This has now come to pass through Jesus' birth. It is Jesus, the light of the world, who shows us God's unconditional love, the true source of hope, peace, and joy for all people. How might Jesus' birth give you hope, peace, and joy?
Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for Simeon, Anna, and all those throughout history who have lifted up Jesus as the hope and peace for all the world. Amen.**

SERVICE

In the temple in Jerusalem, Simeon and Anna encouraged and blessed young, first-time parents, Mary and Joseph. Who are some parents with young children in your congregation or community? Is there an act of service you can for them, like helping with cleaning, bringing a meal, or childcare, so they can enjoy some time out together?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 148 is a psalm that offers praise to God in all things. Praise means to say how wonderful God is for everything God has done for us. Write your own psalm. Make a list of things for which you wish to praise God. Using the list, say each praise aloud. For example:
I praise God for *earth and the stars*. Praise the Lord!
I praise God for *family and friends*. Praise the Lord!
And so forth until you finish the list.

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