

The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge

Woodhouse United Church and Grace United Church

NEWSLETTER

November—December 2021



From the minister's desk...

I offer you heartfelt greetings and I pray that this newsletter finds you filled with hope for the months ahead. It has been good to open the churches back up for in-person worship. How moving it was to celebrate communion together again on World Communion Sunday. It was also nice to be able to celebrate our church anniversaries.

Now that October is behind us, we have the busy months of November and December. In November we will once again extend care to the homeless with warm, dry socks. I hear from the social worker how much the socks mean to their clients whose feet are cold and wet during the winter months. I am so proud of the generosity you have shown in the past two years. Next, we have Remembrance Day and we remember those who lost their lives in military service. I don't believe in the glamorization of war but I do believe that oppressive and racist governments cannot be left free to conduct their evil reign. So, until humankind figures out a better way, we will continue to lose brave men and women to armed conflict.

The last Sunday in November is the first Sunday of Advent. How quickly

that has come upon us. The themes for the four weeks of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. These themes are, of course, related to the coming of our Lord, Jesus. However, they continue to be significant for our world today.

Hope – there is hope for the end of the Covid pandemic and the time when we can be mask-free, exchange hugs, and get together for some close fellowship. There is hope that our frontline workers will get some much-needed rest. There is hope that the work of the Truth and Reconciliation will continue. There is hope that the Taliban government will collapse. **Peace** – we can pray for domestic peace, peace in our Indigenous relationships, peace in countries throughout the world. **Joy** – what joy there is in following Jesus, especially in giving of our time, talent, and treasure to help others. As congregations who represent Christ in our world, the support of Mission and Outreach yields stories of the difference we have made in people's lives. However, your generosity isn't limited to the church offering plate. Many of you volunteer your time and talent for the benefit of others just as Jesus did. Again, I'm sure you'll agree, there is much joy in seeing the smiles on the beneficiaries' faces. It is definitely a joy to know you've made a difference.

Love – God's love...given to us in the person of Jesus. Given to us to share. I see and feel a lot of that in these congregations and that makes serving God in this pastoral charge very rewarding.

Jesus, born 2,000 years ago, was the incarnation of God. Jesus, born in us each day, continues to bring hope, peace, joy, and love to the world. May you have a blessed November and December.

Together in faith,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn".

Rev. Kathryn Vance

Calendar of Special Days

Calendar of Special Days

November 1	All Saints Day
November 5-11	Veterans Week
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 16	International Day for Tolerance
November 20	World Children's Day
November 20-25	Canada History Week
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
Nov. 25—Dec. 10	16 days of Activism against Gender Violence
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 10	Human Rights Day
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day



For Remembrance Day, a military chaplain and United Church minister reflects on the cost of war and peace.

Originally published On: November 7, 2019

I remember when I first heard the biblical account of the healing of the centurion's slave. It was at a church parade while on training in the naval reserve many years ago. I don't recall which gospel version I heard, Matthew or Luke, but in both accounts Jesus responds the same, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith" (Luke 7:9).

Really? No one in all of Israel has as greater a faith as a Roman centurion? Why?

Those words came to me in the early years of my call to serve in the military and they brought me much comfort. Little did I know then how my understanding of the centurion would continue to deepen and grow as I grew in Christian faith and service.

In my early to mid-20s I struggled with "what I wanted to be when I grew up." Because of a life changing conversation I had with my economics professor, who also just also happened to be in the naval reserve, I entered university before I finished my first semester in a college business program. I had shared with him my desire to go to university after college, but I didn't know how I could finance it. He introduced me to the idea of joining the naval reserve where I could have a part-time income while going to school in the fall and winter, and a full-time income serving and training with the naval reserve in the summer months. Shortly thereafter, by his invitation and God's grace, I enrolled in HMCS *Queen* as a Logistics Officer Cadet on November 2, 1982. That day changed the course of my life.

Since then I have served the military at various times and places in both the reserve and regular force and in three different military occupations: logistics, public affairs, and now chaplaincy. I have worn all three uniforms - navy, air force and now army. God called me to the military first, and then to ministry in The United Church of Canada, and in between those two callings God also called me to full-time motherhood.

Currently, I am in full-time ordered congregational ministry at Minto United Church in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. I also serve as a reserve military chaplain with the Saskatchewan Dragoons, an armoured reconnaissance unit. Although at times I am stretched keeping up with the

demands of this tri-vocational calling, I also know there is no life like it and I wouldn't want to give up any of it — especially when I am called to bring light to dark places.

Last year, in what surely has been the greatest moment I have ever experienced when the light poured in. It happened at the Consecration of the Guidon ceremony for the Saskatchewan Dragoons on November 3, 2018, almost 36 years to the day I enrolled in the naval reserve. A unit's colours (called "guidon") are battle honours. The colours are a flag of honour used in commemorative ceremonies today and historically to lead soldiers into battle during war. A unit's colours are intended to wear out with time. The Saskatchewan Dragoons had received a re-



Saskatchewan Dragoons Consecration of the Guidon ceremony, Nov. 3, 2018, Moose Jaw, SK. The author, Capt. (Rev.) Linda Tomlinson-Seebach, is second from the left.

placement guidon for the previous one that had been used since the 1970s. As part of the ritual in receiving a new guidon, the old one is taken away and the new one is consecrated by the Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces in a special ceremony. The retired guidon is then "laid

up" — hung, until it finally wastes away to dust. This is a visual sign of our desire that, in time, there will no longer be any such colours to be newly displayed, and war will be at last remembered no more.

As I stood beside the Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces, feeling both humbled and honoured, I was beholden to the guidon which lay (literally) on top of the drums waiting to be consecrated (or blessed).

I thought about the thousands of young Canadians who signed up to go

to battle without any clue of the price they were about to pay. I thought of the young women who left their families to go work in factories for the war effort and now go off to serve in missions around the globe. I thought of my own sons and how I would feel if they were to go off to war and not come home again. I thought of war veterans whose lives changed forever because of physical, emotional, or moral wounds. I thought of the many great people I have served with in the military and how grateful I was. I thought of those who came back from war with wounds only their children would see as they suffered in silence.

After the guidon was blessed it was lifted up and paraded.

In that moment, as I contemplated the cost of war and the cost of peace, the soldiers paraded the new guidon, lifted high and proud above them. I understood why the *values* of a society must always be held higher than the *people*. I saw and felt the presence of those who passed on. I felt the pain of those who lived through war and suffered silently. Each and every time the guidon is lifted up and paraded it symbolizes the sacrifice they made for a better world.

And, in the midst of all this I heard the centurion plead for healing. And in that moment, I too pleaded for healing – for the living and the dead. Jesus, heal us...lest we ever forget.

— Capt. (Rev.) Linda Tomlinson-Seebach serves full time in congregational minister at Minto United Church in Moose Jaw, SK while also serving as a part-time reserve military chaplain with the Saskatchewan Dragoons.


Trivia #1

Name the first 10 books alphabetically in the bible.

Trivia #2

NAME THE COMMON DENOMINATOR

1. MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE.
2. ROME, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM'
3. GUYS ON ROAD TO EMMAUS, PETER, MARY
4. EZEKIEL, MALACHI, AMOS.
5. BURNING BUSH, MT. SINAI , THE TEMPLE.
6. DAVID, SAMUEL, SAUL.
7. THE TABERNACLE, THE ARK.
8. STAFF, THE NILE, LOCUST.
9. BANNING FROM GARDEN, KILLING OF 1ST BORN, FLOOD.
10. PRODIGAL, SON, GOOD SAMARITAN, MUSTARD SEED.



VERY SOON
WE FALL BACK

NOVEMBER 7TH

Don't forget to set your clocks!

Sunday, November 7, 2021,

2:00 am clocks are turned

backward 1 hour to

Sunday, November 7, 2021,

1:00 am local standard time

instead.

Christmas at Home: The Gift of Ritual

In this season, many things distract us from nurturing faith within our families.

Faith deepens in our lives as we practise it. The hope, peace, joy, and love of God provide resilience in our lives when we nurture these gifts in our daily spiritual rituals. What we want our children to know is that God is with them; they are not alone no matter what they face in life. That's the message of the Advent-Christmas season! What a blessed gift to give them this Christmas!

Yet it is so easy in our society for faith to get lost. In this season that is really all about faith, many things distract us from nurturing faith within our families. We need to snatch back Advent and Christmas and find the ways that help us, in our families, make the journey to Bethlehem one that nurtures faith in ourselves and in our children.

Keeping the focus on faith within this celebration that has been taken over by secular forces does not have to add to the stress. The good news is that it is the simple things, the ritual actions that we've done year by year, and the time we take to just be together that help make this truly a celebration of Christ's birth.

Early in the season, take time to reflect as a family about what has been the most meaningful for you in the past years. Add new "traditions" to replace old ones that no longer make sense for you or to address new realities in your family.

Here are some ideas for Christmas-at-Home:

- * Why not make each Advent-Christmas tradition into something that connects with what we believe about God, Jesus, and faith-filled living? The Advent calendar might not only have a treat to discover each day but could also be a reminder to put a food item in a box for the food bank. While each gift is wrapped, offer a prayer for the person who will receive the gift. While watching the Santa Claus parade, look for signs of hope, peace, joy and love as the floats go by, and talk about that later as a family.



- * When you put up your Christmas tree, pause as a family to pray, asking for God's blessing as you celebrate around the tree this year. If it is a real tree, thank God for creating it and ask that the tree remind you that Jesus' love is evergreen (everlasting). If it is an artificial tree, thank God for those who made it and ask that it remind you of the wonder and joy of Jesus' birth.
- * Choose one special ornament to be the last one you hang on the tree each year. It might be a bell, a star, an angel, a dove, a baby Jesus, or something significant for your family. Gather together to hang this last ornament. Invite each person to say, out loud or silently, a prayer for others and for our world. Then sing a verse of "Silent Night" or "Away in a Manger."
- * Are there loved ones you are missing this year, either because they have died or because they live far away? Choose an ornament (make one by hand or buy one) that represents each person. Then create a ritual of hanging these ornaments on the tree, telling stories about and giving thanks for each person.
- * Our society emphasizes creating Christmas wish lists of what we want for Christmas. Take time to create together the list of what you will give to others, in your family and in your community. What is a special way to show what you love about the other people?
- * Encourage children to create special gifts or cards for those they love. Younger children might team with an older sibling or adult. Gift ideas: A card with a special story about the person or a note of thanks. A list of favourite songs or quotes. A photo taken and frame created. A simple gift in your loved one's favourite colour—scarf, mitts, notebook, candy, etc. including a note: "To (*name*) who loves (*colour*), with all my love!" A selection of cartoons or photos they would enjoy. A song that has special meaning for the loved one that you will listen to together. A short story or poem that has meaning for them that you read to them.

— *adapted writing of Rev. Susan Lukey, minister at High River United*

Stories behind Carols

“O Little Town of Bethlehem,” VU 64

In 1865, the famous preacher and abolitionist Phillip Brooks rode on horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and participated in the Church of the Nativity's Christmas Eve celebration. In response to his experience there, he wrote the now-famous carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” which was first performed by the children’s choir of his church a few years later. Unlike many Christmas carols, the lyrics of this reflective and hopeful song are set in the present tense rather than the past. The author’s experience of wonder and awe are palpable and cover the seemingly great distance between the birth of Christ then and our experience of it now.

“Silent Night, Holy Night” VU 67

In 1816, Father Joseph Mohr wrote the poem “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!” while stationed at a pilgrim church in Mariapfarr, Austria. Two years later, now at St. Nicholas’ church in Oberndorf, he asked Franz Gruber to set the poem for guitar and choir, which the two performed on Christmas Eve of 1818. Since then, a legend has grown around the circumstances of this collaboration, beginning with a broken organ at St. Nicholas’ and ending with a dramatic, last-minute musical setting for the now-familiar carol. To what extent the legend of the carol’s origins is true is perhaps less important than its beauty and simplicity.

“Joy to the World” Psalm 98

Did you know that “Joy to the World” was not written as a Christmas carol? In its original form, it had nothing to do with Christmas. It wasn’t even written to be a song.

Isaac Watts was one of the great hymn writers in church history, and I guess nothing shows that better than the fact that he wrote one of his most famous hymns by accident. In 1719, Watts published a book of poems in which each poem was based on a psalm. But rather than just translate the original Old Testament texts, he adjusted them to refer more explicitly to the work of Jesus as it had been revealed in the New Testament.

One of those poems was an adaptation of Psalm 98. Watts interpreted this psalm as a celebration of Jesus's role as King of both his church and the whole world. More than a century later, the second half of this poem was slightly adapted and set to music to give us what has become one of the most famous of all Christmas carols.



What do you donate to the Food Banks?....

So, I spent some time at a Food Bank today, and spoke to the people getting food. Here are some things I learned from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for rice a roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in spring and summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. I does me!

We all need guidance and good friends.....

Just up the road from my home is a field with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray.

When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. God watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those whom God places in our lives. Other times, we are the guide horse, helping others see the way.

Good friends are like this. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

Please listen for my bell, and I'll listen for yours.

New Book Coming to The Grace Library

"Well Aged: Making the Most of Your Platinum Years"

Finding happiness at 80+, from the perspective of an octogenarian.

Author **Ralph Milton** wants readers to know that old age is not a disease circling the world ready to pounce on anyone over eighty. Many, maybe even most, old people, say they are happier and more contented than they have ever been. And that's good news because Canadians are living much, much longer. In fact, octogenarians are the country's fastest growing demographic. To quote the author, "Society has never had to deal with such a huge bunch of old people."

To address this societal shift, **Well Aged** offers a candid, useful and entertaining insider's take on life among the old, old. Not the recently retired who are enjoying Arizona winters and unlimited golf, but those in their last years, usually in the eighty- to one- hundred-year-old bracket. While there is good material written by health-care professionals for other professionals, and popular non-fiction to inspire the recently retired, there is virtually nothing written at the non-professional level for the oldest of the old. Or for their families and care givers. This book is a free wheeling, down to earth, inside look at what it's really like to be old, written by an insider and sprinkled liberally with humour.

When the situation of elderly Canadians does get public attention, as it has during the Covid-19 pandemic, the focus is on what can go wrong. **Well Aged** is intended to expand the conversation around aging, and it is a must-read for anyone who needs to put out their birthday cake with a fire extinguisher—as well as those who love and care for them.

Sock It To Me!

Sunday, November 7

Once again, this year, we are collecting socks for distribution to the homeless during the cold, wet, winter months. A box is provided in the sanctuary. Also needed are underwear, hats, and mitts.



A good friend of mine unexpectedly lost her husband. A couple months later we were running together, chatting about nothing. She asked what my dinner plans were and I told her hubby wanted chili, but I didn't feel like stopping at the store. We ran a few more minutes when she quietly said, "Make the chili."

It took me a few minutes to realize we were no longer talking about dinner. It was about going out of your way to do something for someone you love because at any moment, they could unexpectedly be taken from you.

So today I'm sharing with you that wisdom handed to me by my dear friend, that I've thought of many times since that day. Next time someone you love wants you to go for a walk or watch a football game or play a board game or just put your phone down and give them your undivided attention, just do it. Make the chili.

Love deeply and selflessly. ❤️

News and Updates

Church Office :

- The church office will be closed in recognition of **Remembrance Day on November 11, 2021**
- The church office will be closed for the holiday season, **December 24th to January 3rd, reopening on January 4, 2022.**

Celebrations and Special Services:

- **November 7—Remembrance Day Service** hosted by St Paul's Anglican Church at 7pm.
- **November 28th—Annual Advent Ecumenical Gathering** at Grace United at 7pm with services led by local churches.
- **Dec 12th— Christmas Memorial Service—at St Cecilia's 7PM**
- **Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 & 9:00PM**

Meetings and other happenings:

- **Grace Council Mtg _ Nov 8 & Dec 6—6:30PM** by Zoom
- **LUYS Nov 15—7PM**
- **Ways of Being the Church Dec 6—9:30am**
- **PC Board Mtg Nov 9—3:30PM** at Woodhouse United Church
- Calendar of upcoming events can be found on the church Website graceunitedportdover.org
- You can subscribe to our email distribution by completing the form at <http://eepurl.com/gZrJH1>

Trivia Solutions

Answers Trivia #1

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Acts | 6. Daniel |
| 2. Amos | 7. Deuteronomy |
| 3. Chronicles | 8. Ecclesiastes |
| 4. Colossians | 9. Ephesians |
| 5. Corinthians | 10. Esther |


Answers Trivia #2

1. BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT OR GOSPELS.
2. CAPITALS
3. PEOPLE WHO SAW JESUS THE DAY HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD
4. PROPHETS.
5. PEOPLE GOD TALKED TO.
6. KINGS.
7. THINGS GOD TOLD THEM TO BUILD.
8. THINGS MOSES USED AGAINST PHARAOH TO TRY TO CONVINCE HIM TO LET HIS PEOPLE GO.
9. PUNISHMENTS FROM GOD.
10. PARABLES.

Give Us the Courage to Welcome Christ (Prayer)

Holy One,
Give us the courage to welcome Christ into every part of our
lives,
so that, like Mary, we will hope for a better world,
like Elizabeth, the Shepherds, and the Holy Family,
we will be brave and bold in our living,
like the Innkeeper and animals, we will be welcoming of
others,
and like the Magi, we will present our best selves.
May we always be ready to welcome, Emmanuel, Christ with
us.
Amen.

—a prayer inspired by Advent Unwrapped



**"I prefer you to make mistakes in
kindness than work miracles in
unkindness."
~ Mother Teresa**

Grace: Memorial Candle lighting

November - We remember:

David James Cossar;
Lyla Diana Harris;
Douglas Ivan Reid; Eugene Bryce Stone



December - We remember:

Shirley Dorothy Patricia Blake; Jean Bernice Crawford;
William Jacques; David Murray Kilpatrick; Betty McKenzie;
Robert David Morrison; Ernest Henry Quanbury; Ruth Ramp;
William Ramp; Ester Elizabeth Caroline Stephens;
Lola Doreen Thompson; John Calvin Varey; Wayne Wilso

Woodhouse: Memorial Candle lighting

November - We remember:

James Morrison Knox Godfrey; John Cecil Hatch

December – We remember:

Willie David Moore; George Ernest Shoff; Marlene Simpson;
David Scott Stephens



A gift we offer others
is our prayers.

Keep in our prayers the family and friends of:

Paul Richard Edwards who passed on September 4, 2021

Dorothy O'Brien who passed on September 6, 2021

Mary Ann Kleiner who passed on September 14, 2021

What Is the Language Hiding? What Is It Revealing?

Language and translation are hugely important to the work of communities of faith, especially in times of change and in doing change work. For instance:

- * The difficulties that arise when we make assumptions.
- * The potentially disastrous implications of misunderstanding even a single word
- * How when we disregard the nuance inherent in many words, we may muddy our intended message.

The idea that language is a constantly-negotiated consensus on the meaning of words, especially for the church in recent times; a process of redefining traditional terms and developing new ones that invites us to explore new directions and ways of looking at the future. “Church” meant something different at its inception than it does now. Similarly with “community of faith”—how does that compare to the original definition and how we live that out?

Conversely, how accessible is “social innovation” to communities of faith, given that it’s the same idea as community outreach, and which phrase is best to use? What about “charitable” versus “non-profit?” What about “shared participation,” and the joy of being heard?

Translation builds bridges and consensus, and brings possibilities and hope. Watch the whole conversation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rp8uCyKGI8>

Reflection Questions:

- * Name a time that you had a massive miscommunication. How did this happen? What was the cause?
- * Name a time that a word has triggered you. What language is off-putting for us? Is it business language? Is it secular language? Is it laden with other meanings? Holding power?
- * What language do we use that is considered ‘insider’ language?
- * How might our role be to translate? What does this look like? Is this more about speaking or listening?
- * What might be possible if we could translate better?

~adapted from Embracing the Spirit

Scriptures For November / December 2021

November 7 - 24th after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Ruth marries Boaz and restores the family line.

Psalms 127 Unless God builds the house.

Hebrews 9:24-28 Christ, the once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin.

Mark 12:38-44 The widow offers two small copper coins.

November 14—25th after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20 Samuel is born to Hannah and Eli.

1 Samuel 2:1-10 The song of Hannah

Hebrews 10:11-25 Provoke one another to love and good deeds.

Mark 13:1-8 Not one stone of the temple shall be left standing

November 21—Reign of Christ Sunday

2 Samuel 23:1-7 David's last words glorify God.

Psalms 132:1-18 God will bless with abundance.

Revelation 1:4b-8 I am the Alpha and the Omega.

John 18:33-37 Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you king of the Jews?"

November 28—1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16 A righteous branch from David's line

Psalms 25:1-10 To you, God, I lift my soul.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 How can we thank God adequately?

Luke 21:25-36 Signs in the heavens; parable of the fig tree

December 5—2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 A refiner's fire and a launderer's soap

Luke 1:68-79 Zechariah sings, "Blessed be the God of Israel."

Philippians 1:3-11 I thank God every time I remember you.

Luke 3:1-6 A voice calling in the desert

December 12—3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Sing, daughter of Zion; God comes to bring you home.

Isaiah 12:2-6 Proclaim God's deeds to the nations.

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in God always! Again I say, rejoice!

Luke 3:7-18 John warns the crowds, "You brood of vipers!"

December 19—4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a Out of Bethlehem in Judea will come a leader.

Psalms 80:1-7 Shepherd of Israel, hear us.

Hebrews 10:5-10 Made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus' body

Luke 1:39-55 Mary visits Elizabeth.

December 24—Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 A child has been born for us.

Psalms 96 Sing to God a new song.

Titus 2:11-14 Live a godly, upright life.

Luke 2:1-20 Jesus' birth

December 26—1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 God blesses the boy Samuel.

Psalms 148 Let the whole creation praise God.

Colossians 3:12-17 Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness.

Luke 2:41-52 The boy Jesus learns at the temple.

