

## Gather Together



This week, keep a list of people to pray for from the news, your community, congregation and personal life. Those who like you and those who don't. Those you like and those you don't. Pray for them every day! Bring this list to worship on Sunday. Leaders: have a basket for the prayers of the week. Offer a petition that prays for the whole world to be united in love and peace.



✝ Remember that you are God's love loose in the world ✝

## Daily Readings



Monday through Wednesday:  
*O Sing to the Lord!*

Psalm 98  
2 John 1-13  
2 Peter 16-21

We live in a paradox of waiting for Jesus to return and knowing that we are part of bringing in the kingdom with our daily lives. Do you consider yourself a "proclaimer of the gospel"? Why or why not? When have you noticed the Holy Spirit at work in your life or in the world?



Thursday through Saturday:  
*Praise and Thanksgiving!*

Romans 1: 18-25  
Isaiah 12  
Isaiah 57: 14-21

We are bombarded this time of year with the question "what are you thankful for"? This year ponder the question "How do I show that I am thankful"? God doesn't need our list of what we are grateful for but desires our grateful thoughts, words and actions towards our brothers and sisters and all of creation. Have a gratitude "to-do" list on your refrigerator for the next week.

## Faith Focus



**All Saints** can be a confusing day for young children, as we remember those special people from our lives who now are with God. We wonder what heaven might be like, are we resurrected right away or do we have to wait, do we have physical bodies, etc. The honest truth, even with all of the extremely gifted theologians who have speculated, is that we don't know. But the promise (to reassure not just young children but us all) is that we are never alone. Never. Don't be afraid of these deep theological conversations on heaven and resurrection. Children are already thinking about these things-give space for them to practice articulating these concepts. Ask them who they miss (pets too!) and why. Have crayons and blank paper available for drawing out their thoughts as well.



**Luke 6:20-31** - Blessings and Woes (feel free to read this in a children's Bible, too)



**Jesus is turning** the world upside down with his ministry. In this passage, Jesus is reminding us that what we see and experience today, is not necessarily the final word. If you are poor, hungry, sad, lonely, God is with you and at work to dry tears, feed you and to be with you. Also, just because you're comfortable now, doesn't mean that can't be different in a heartbeat. The world is a fickle place, but the love and justice of God are not.



**For adults/youth:** Why is it dangerous to think that if you're comfortable now that you will always be so? Why do you think it's hard to share what we have with others? What do you want your obituary to say about you when you die? Take some time to write that this week. It's very humbling!

**For children:** What do you do when someone says something about you that isn't true? People said mean things about Jesus, do you remember how he handled that? (Loved people, prayed for them, and didn't try and argue.) It's hard for us to completely act like Jesus, and that's ok! But we can love and pray for people and keep trying!