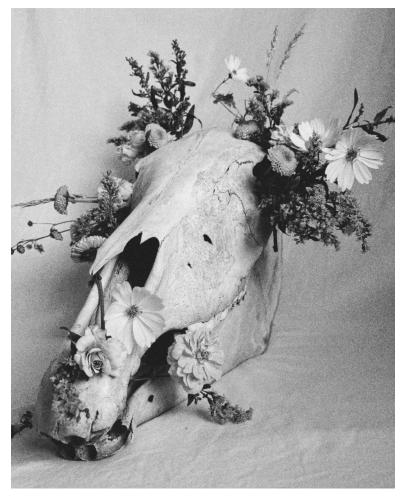


Lectionary



VAN CITY 2025

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INTRODUCTION

For years of my childhood, my family gathered in our living room on December the 24th to read the Christmas story as told in the gospel according to Luke. All of us giddy with anticipation, surrounded on all sides by lights and decorations—visual reminders of the season—one of my parents would open the family Bible, a massive, leather-bound tome, and read aloud, "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world."

It was, like all the Christmas pageantry (inlcuding but not limited to carols, sweets, family get-togethers, and *Gremlins*), a tradition that anchored the season and our family's experience of it in a story. In our living room, the cold darkness of winter beyond our home, we were gathering around a story.

Around the story.

Christianity is a story. It's a story about God, us, and the world. It's a story that has happened, is happening, and will happen. One massive component of what it means to be the church at all is to come together and tell that story—to ourselves, to our children, to one another—again and again. When Jesus instituted the sacrament of communion and said, "Do this and remember me," he was saying, "Keep telling this story."

"Lectionary" is a word that means "chosen reading." For centuries, all kinds of churches and denominational traditions have utilized daily, monthly, and annual "chosen readings" to bring the family of faith together around a story. Around *the* story.

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I hope and pray that in the months ahead, our church would experience a new kind of unity in a shared chosen reading of that story. In our homes, around dinner tables, and in a sanctuary on Sunday. May the Spirit of God bring you deeper intimacy with this story this year.

May our family be gathered around it.

Josh Porter

The Kingdom of God is Among Us

WEDNESDAY: Luke 17v20-21

THURSDAY: Matthew 5v1-12

FRIDAY: Hebrews 12v18-29

SATURDAY: Mark 12v41-44

Epiphany and the Season After

The Coming Christ
God is With Us
Listening & Obeying
All Things New
What God Has Promised
Protected by God
From Fear to Courage
Making Room to Listen

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Like the sudden arrival of dawn after a long, dark night, Epiphany illuminates the world with the joy of Christ among us. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "striking appearance," and is celebrated on January 6 and commonly commemorates both the visit of the Magi to Jesus, and Jesus's baptism in the Jordan River.

In both these stories, the truth of Jesus's identity is made manifest to those around him. In the season of Epiphany, the Magi (who were foreign kings from eastern countries) represent all Gentiles, while those present at Jesus's baptism represent the people of Israel. In this way, Epiphany is about how the light of Jesus has been revealed to the whole world.

The season after Epiphany is a time to reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus, and the work that he continues to do in us and through us. Jesus is among his people by the power of his Spirit, and just as his light was revealed to the whole world, so now he sends his followers out to be lights in the darkness.

In this season, we have an opportunity to draw near to God as we listen to the teachings of Jesus and learn to obey his wise instruction. We hold onto the hope of God's promise that he will put an end to all injustice, pain, and death.

Written by Levi Warren

The Coming Christ

SUNDAY: Psalm 132

MONDAY: Matthew 2v1-12
TUESDAY: Revelation 1v1-8
WEDNESDAY: Luke 21v25-36

THURSDAY: Acts 1v1-11

FRIDAY: Mark 13v1-13, 24-37

SATURDAY: Ezekiel 34v1-10

God is With Us

SUNDAY: Psalm 46

MONDAY: Isaiah 9v1-7

TUESDAY: Matthew 1v18-25

WEDNESDAY: Ezekiel 34v11-16

THURSDAY: Isaiah 40v1-11, 28-31

FRIDAY: Philippians 4v4-9

SATURDAY: Isaiah 7v10-17

Listening & Obeying

SUNDAY: Psalm 119v97-112

MONDAY: John 14v15-24

TUESDAY: Romans 6v15-23

WEDNESDAY: James 1v19-27

THURSDAY: James 4v1-10

FRIDAY: Mark 9v1-8

SATURDAY: Philippians 2v12-18

All Things New

SUNDAY: Psalm 126

MONDAY: John 3v1-8

TUESDAY: Matthew 3v13-17

WEDNESDAY: Ephesians 4v17-32

THURSDAY: 2 Cor 5v16-21

FRIDAY: Isaiah 43v1-13

SATURDAY: Revelation 21v1-7

What God Has Promised

SUNDAY: Psalm 104

MONDAY: John 2v1-12

TUESDAY: 2 Peter 3v5-13

WEDNESDAY: 2 Corinthians 1v12-22

THURSDAY: James 1v1-15

FRIDAY: 1 Kings 8v22-30

SATURDAY: Romans 4v16-25

Protected by God

SUNDAY: Psalm 91

MONDAY: Jeremiah 31v27-34

TUESDAY: Revelation 22v1-5, 17

WEDNESDAY: Luke 12v22-34

THURSDAY: John 10v1-18

FRIDAY: Luke 15v1-10

SATURDAY: Psalm 121

From Fear to Courage

SUNDAY: Psalm 56

MONDAY: Matthew 10v26-31

TUESDAY: Genesis 15v1-6

WEDNESDAY: John 20v19-23

THURSDAY: Luke 5v1-11

FRIDAY: Deuteronomy 31v7-8

SATURDAY: Philippians 1v12-14

Making Room to Listen

SUNDAY: Psalm 8

MONDAY: Matthew 6v16-18

TUESDAY: Isaiah 58v6-9

WEDNESDAY: Acts 13v1-3

THURSDAY: Acts 14v21-23

FRIDAY: Ezra 8v21-23

SATURDAY: Luke 2v36-38

Lent, Easter, and Pentecost

The Good Shepherd
Suffering
Loneliness
Sin & Brokenness
What God Has Promised
Times of Difficulty
Perserverance
Journey to the Cross
Resurrected Life
Resurrected People
Power of the Gospel
Jesus is the Way
The Now & Not Yet
From Death to Life
God Transforms Us

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The season that encompasses Lent, Easter, and Pentecost truly is a time that reflects the "now and not yet" reality of our world. A season held in the balance of darkness and light. We rejoice in the *now* of God's inbreaking Kingdom, but we face the truth that it has *not* yet fully arrived.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a period of 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter when we remember the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness as he prepared for his earthly ministry. It is a time when we reflect on the fallen nature of our world and our own sin, brokenness, and mortality, and is often accompanied by the practice of fasting or abstinence from particular foods and comforts.

And yet, the six Sundays of Lent are feast days, when our fasting is replaced by gladness as we anticipate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. The most significant of Christian celebrations, Easter is the day we throw off the ashes of mourning and rejoice in Jesus's defeat of sin and death. The resurrection of Jesus brings us the hope that we, too, will one day experience a bodily resurrection from the dead and participate in the fullness of New Creation.

The season after Easter is marked by 50 days of waiting that culminate in Pentecost Sunday, which commemorates the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles in the upper room. The followers of Jesus were empowered to spread the good news of the Kingdom of Jesus, and the Church was established. In the same way, we are now empowered by the Spirit of Jesus to continue the work of his Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.

Written by Levi Warren

The Good Shepherd

SUNDAY: Psalm 23

MONDAY: Ezekiel 34v11-16

TUESDAY: 1 Timothy 3v1-13

ASH WEDNESDAY: Joel 2v12-13

THURSDAY: Jeremiah 23

FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 4

SATURDAY: Micah 5v4

Suffering

SUNDAY: Psalm 102

MONDAY: Job 3v1-10

TUESDAY: Genesis 3v1-13

WEDNESDAY: 1 Peter 5v1-11

THURSDAY: Mark 15v1-37

FRIDAY: 2 Samuel 22v1-20

SATURDAY: Isaiah 58v1-12

Loneliness

SUNDAY: Psalm 88

MONDAY: Genesis 18v22-33

TUESDAY: Romans 11v1-6

WEDNESDAY: Acts 2v22-36

THURSDAY: 1 Kings 19v1-18

FRIDAY: Psalm 27v7-14

SATURDAY: Mark 14v32-50

Sin & Brokenness

SUNDAY: Psalm 51

MONDAY: Mark 7v20-23

TUESDAY: Romans 3v9-20

WEDNESDAY: 1 John 1v7-10

THURSDAY: Proverbs 28v13

FRIDAY: Romans 6v1-14

SATURDAY: Psalm 19v13-14

Times of Difficulty

SUNDAY: Psalm 37

MONDAY: 1 Peter 1v12-19

TUESDAY: Exodus 17v1-7

WEDNESDAY: Daniel 1

THURSDAY: Esther 8

FRIDAY: Mark 13v3-13

SATURDAY: Psalm 18

Perserverance

SUNDAY: Psalm 143

MONDAY: Philippians 3v1-12

TUESDAY: 2 Corinthians 6v1-10

WEDNESDAY: Ezekiel 36v22-36

THURSDAY: Proverbs 7v1-3

FRIDAY: Acts 5v12-42

SATURDAY: Luke 21v5-19

Journey to the Cross

SUNDAY: Mark 11v1-11

MONDAY: Matthew 21v12-17

TUESDAY: Mark 11v12-25
WEDNESDAY: John 12v1-11

THURSDAY: John 13v1-3

FRIDAY: Matthew 27v32-56

SATURDAY: Luke 23v55-56

Resurrected Life

EASTER

SUNDAY: John 20v1-29

MONDAY: Psalm 148

TUESDAY: 1 Corinthians 15v1-11

WEDNESDAY: 1 Corinthians 15v12-19

THURSDAY: 1 Corinthians 15v20-34

FRIDAY: 1 Corinthians 15v35-49

SATURDAY: 1 Corinthians 15v50-58

Resurrected People

SUNDAY: Psalm 18

MONDAY: Romans 6v1-11
TUESDAY: John 11v1-16
WEDNESDAY: John 11v17-27
THURSDAY: John 11v28-37
FRIDAY: John 11v38-44
SATURDAY: Acts 17v22-23

Power of the Gospel

SUNDAY: Psalm 25

MONDAY: 1 Corinthians 1v18-31

TUESDAY: 2 Corinthians 12v1-10

WEDNESDAY: Colossians 1v9-23

THURSDAY: Ephesians 1v1-14

FRIDAY: 1 Peter 1v1-9

SATURDAY: Romans 1v1-17

Jesus is the Way

SUNDAY: Psalm 89

MONDAY: John 12v20-36

TUESDAY: Luke 5v27-39

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 8v18-27

THURSDAY: Matthew 11v1-15

FRIDAY: Hebrews 10v19-25

SATURDAY: John 14v1-14

The Now & Not Yet

SUNDAY: Psalm 93

MONDAY: John 15v1-11

TUESDAY: 2 Corinthians 4

WEDNESDAY: 2 Corinthians 5v1-10

THURSDAY: Acts 11v19-26

FRIDAY: 1 John 3v11-24

SATURDAY: John 10v1-18

From Death to Life

SUNDAY: Psalm 116

MONDAY: Romans 8v31-39 TUESDAY: Matthew 11v2-19

WEDNESDAY: 1 Corinthians 15v1-28

Colossians 3v1-17

FRIDAY: Isaiah 25v1-9

THURSDAY:

Romans 1v1-7, 16-17 SATURDAY:

God Transforms Us

SUNDAY: Psalm 65

MONDAY: Colossians 3v1-17

TUESDAY: Ezekiel 36v22-32

WEDNESDAY: Luke 19v1-10

THURSDAY: John 9

FRIDAY: Acts 26v2-29

SATURDAY: Ephesians 5v1-20

Ordinary Time

I Am Yours
Colossians
Practicing the Presence of God
Life Together
Ruth
Life in Christ
Questions of Jesus
The Sermon on the Mount
Freedom in Christ
True Humility
Forgiveness
Reconciliation

The Cost of Servanthood Pray for One Another

Filled with the Spirit

Fear Not
Come & Rest
Choose Life
Justice
Compassion
Set Apart by God
Wisdom
Gentleness
Living Water
A New Beginning

VAN CITY LECTIONARY

The longest section of our church calendar is called Ordinary Time. It stretches from Pentecost to the beginning of Advent. Here, the word "ordinary" refers to the ordinal numbers used to count each week (first week of Ordinary Time, second week of Ordinary Time, etc.).

Traditionally, Ordinary Time has been used to reflect on Jesus's *humanity*. After a season of reflecting on his death and celebrating his resurrection, we use Ordinary Time to consider our relationship with the living Jesus—how we are to persevere and remain faithful in our discipleship.

This season of Ordinary Time is not simply counting down the weeks until the next holiday and is more than just a selection of daily readings. It is a chance to learn and relearn what it means to follow Jesus when the weeks are long and the days are hard just as we follow faithfully when we feel inspired and to do so seems easy. Jesus, in his humanity, did this. He remained faithful and steadfast through all the seasons of his life. May we do the same.

By Patrick Porter

Filled with the Spirit

PENTE(0ST

SUNDAY: Acts 2

MONDAY: Mark 5v25-34

TUESDAY: Matthew 14v13-21

WEDNESDAY: Mark 5v21-24; 35-43

THURSDAY: Luke 8v22-25

FRIDAY: Mark 5v1-20

SATURDAY: Mark 2v1-12

I Am Yours

SUNDAY: Psalm 16

MONDAY: 1 Samuel 3v1-14

TUESDAY: 1 Samuel 3v15-21

WEDNESDAY: Luke 1v38

THURSDAY: Acts 10v34-43

FRIDAY: Psalm 10v12-18

SATURDAY: Matthew 9v9-13

Colossians

SUNDAY: Psalm 146

MONDAY: Colossians 1v1-14

TUESDAY: Colossians 1v14-29

WEDNESDAY: Colossians 2v1-15

THURSDAY: Colossians 2v16-23

FRIDAY: Colossians 3

SATURDAY: Colossians 4

Practicing the Presence of God

SUNDAY: Psalm 19

MONDAY: Joel 2v18-27

TUESDAY: Isaiah 63v7-14

WEDNESDAY: Exodus 33v7-23

THURSDAY: Revelation 21v1-7

FRIDAY: Matthew 1v18-25

SATURDAY: Luke 24v13-35

Life Together

SUNDAY: Psalm 133

MONDAY: Colossians 3v5-17
TUESDAY: Ephesians 4v1-16

WEDNESDAY: Philemon

THURSDAY: 1 Corinthians 6v1-10
FRIDAY: 1 Corinthians 3v5-23

SATURDAY: Romans 12v1-21

Ruth

SUNDAY: Psalm 19

MONDAY: Ruth 1

TUESDAY: Ruth 2v1-16
WEDNESDAY: Ruth 2v17-23

THURSDAY: Ruth 3

FRIDAY: Ruth 4v1-12 SATURDAY: Ruth 4v13-22

Life in Christ

SUNDAY: Psalm 130

MONDAY: John 17v1-5

TUESDAY: Romans 6v1-11

WEDNESDAY: Ephesians 2v1-10

THURSDAY: Galatians 2v11-21

FRIDAY: Romans 6v15-23

SATURDAY: Romans 8v18-30

Questions of Jesus

SUNDAY: Psalm 22

MONDAY: Matthew 16v13-20

TUESDAY: Mark 10v46-52

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 12v46-50

THURSDAY: Mark 8v14-21 FRIDAY: Luke 6v46-49

SATURDAY: John 21v15-17

The Sermon on the Mount

SUNDAY: Psalm 119v1-16

MONDAY: Matthew 5v1-26

TUESDAY: Matthew 5v27-48

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 6v1-18

THURSDAY: Matthew 6v19-34

FRIDAY: Matthew 7v1-14

SATURDAY: Matthew 7v15-29

Freedom in Christ

SUNDAY: Psalm 62

MONDAY: Galatians 5v1-15

TUESDAY: Psalm 32

WEDNESDAY: John 10v1-18

THURSDAY: 1 Peter 2v9-25

FRIDAY: Daniel 3v8-18

SATURDAY: 1 Corinthians 10v14-33

True Humility

SUNDAY: Psalm 131

MONDAY: Philippians 2v1-18

TUESDAY: 1 Peter 3v8-12

WEDNESDAY: Zephaniah 3

THURSDAY: Romans 13v1-10

FRIDAY: 2 Chronicles 7v11-22

SATURDAY: Isaiah 57v14-21

Forgiveness

SUNDAY: Psalm 32

MONDAY: 2 Corinthians 3v2-3

TUESDAY: Luke 6v27-36
WEDNESDAY: Luke 6v37-42

THURSDAY: Luke 17v1-6

FRIDAY: 1 John 2v1-17

SATURDAY: Acts 10v34-43

Reconciliation

SUNDAY: Psalm 41

MONDAY: John 18v15-18, 25-27, 21v15-19

TUESDAY: Hosea 2v14-23

WEDNESDAY: Leviticus 25v8-22

THURSDAY: Psalm 94

FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 5v11-21

SATURDAY: Galatians 6v1-10

The Cost of Servanthood

SUNDAY: Psalm 34

MONDAY: John 21v15-23

TUESDAY: Isaiah 53v4-6
WEDNESDAY: 2 Corinthians 4v7-18

THURSDAY: Acts 7v54-60

FRIDAY: Luke 14v25-33

SATURDAY: 2 Corinthians 13v5-10

Pray for One Another

SUNDAY: Psalm 12

MONDAY: Colossians 1v3-14

TUESDAY: Nehemiah 1v1-11

WEDNESDAY: Luke 11v5-13

THURSDAY: James 5v13-20

FRIDAY: Luke 22v31-34

SATURDAY: Matthew 5v43-48

Fear Not

SUNDAY: Psalm 27

MONDAY: Hebrews 13v1-6

TUESDAY: Psalm 56

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 14v22-33

THURSDAY: 2 Kings 6v8-23
FRIDAY: Isaiah 12v1-6

SATURDAY: 1 John 4v13-21

Come & Rest

SUNDAY: Psalm 71

MONDAY: Matthew 11v25-30

TUESDAY: Isaiah 40v27-31

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 116v1-7

THURSDAY: Hebrews 4v1-11

FRIDAY: Jeremiah 6v1-16

SATURDAY: Mark 6v30-42

Choose Life

SUNDAY: Psalm 36

MONDAY: Romans 6v12-14

TUESDAY: Proverbs 8v32-36

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 10v34-39

THURSDAY: Deuteronomy 30v15-20

FRIDAY: John 3v31-36
SATURDAY: John 6v35-40

Justice

SUNDAY: Psalm 72

MONDAY: Ezekiel 34v1-16

TUESDAY: Exodus 6v1-13

WEDNESDAY: Luke 11v37-44

THURSDAY: Psalm 89v1-14

FRIDAY: James 3v13-18

SATURDAY: Ephesians 4v17-24

Compassion

SUNDAY: Psalm 103

MONDAY: Ephesians 4v25-5v2

TUESDAY: Genesis 9v8-17

WEDNESDAY: John 4v7-26

THURSDAY: Exodus 2v1-10

FRIDAY: 1 Peter 1v3-12

SATURDAY: Matthew 20v29-34

Set Apart by God

SUNDAY: Psalm 92

MONDAY: Genesis 9v8-17

TUESDAY: Isaiah 63v7-9

WEDNESDAY: Romans 5v1-11

THURSDAY: 1 Peter 2v1-10

FRIDAY: Isaiah 45v1-8

SATURDAY: Joel 2v18-27

Wisdom

SUNDAY: Psalm 127

MONDAY: Proverbs 2v1-15, 20-22

TUESDAY: 2 Chronicles 1v7-13

WEDNESDAY: 1 Corinthians 2v6-16

THURSDAY: Job 28v12-28

FRIDAY: James 1v19-27

SATURDAY: Matthew 18v1-5

Gentleness

SUNDAY: Psalm 119v73-80

MONDAY: Isaiah 11v1-9
TUESDAY: John 1v29-39

WEDNESDAY: Deuteronomy 32v1-14

THURSDAY: Revelation 5

FRIDAY: Acts 8v26-40

SATURDAY: 1 Peter 1v17-25

Living Water

SUNDAY: Psalm 63

MONDAY: Exodus 17v1-7

TUESDAY: John 4v7-15
WEDNESDAY: John 7v37-39

THURSDAY: Isaiah 12v1-6
FRIDAY: Isaiah 42v1-9

SATURDAY: Revelation 7v13-17

A New Beginning

SUNDAY: Psalm 40

MONDAY: Jeremiah 31v31-34

TUESDAY: Isaiah 43v14-21

WEDNESDAY: 2 Corinthians 5v16-21

THURSDAY: Revelation 21v1-5
FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 3v1-6

SATURDAY: John 13v31-35

Advent and Christmas

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

The Kingdom of God is Among Us

Advent is a season filled with tension, a time when two opposing realities meet: the "now" and the "not yet." The season is an invitation into the challenging and beautiful task of holding both hope and sorrow, joy and longing. Though it may feel uncomfortable, this tension is the heart of Advent—to sit in the in-between and recognize both the celebration of Christ's first arrival and the yearning for his return.

Each week of Advent explains one of four themes—hope, peace, joy, and love. In the first week, we reflect on hope, reminding us of the promises of God that sustain us in the midst of darkness. The second week invites us to consider peace, calling us to rest in the assurance that Christ has already begun his work of reconciliation and true peace is found there. In the third week, we look towards joy encouraging us to rejoice in the good news of Jesus's birth, even as we wait for his ultimate return. Finally, in the fourth week, we focus on love, the love of a God who came to dwell among us and will one day wipe away every tear.

Advent is a season that slows us down, helping us to feel the weight of suffering while holding tight to the promise of redemption. It is a time to call out to Jesus, and live in the tension between his first coming and his second. Each week builds on the last, guiding us to experience the fullness of God's story, a story that holds both longing and fulfillment, sorrow and celebration.

During Advent, we practice living in this reality, embracing both the hope we have now and the promise of Jesus's return to make all things new. The themes of hope, peace, joy, and love invite us to reflect on what it means to live in the light of Christ while waiting for the day when his glory will be fully revealed.

By Taylor Warren

Hope

SUNDAY: Psalm 33

MONDAY: Hebrews 6v13-20

TUESDAY: Romans 8v18-25

WEDNESDAY: 1 Peter 1v3-7

THURSDAY: Luke 2v22-38

FRIDAY: Isaiah 40v28-31

SATURDAY: Romans 15v13

Peace

SUNDAY: Psalm 4

MONDAY: Numbers 6v22-27

TUESDAY: Romans 12v17-21

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 26v1-4

THURSDAY: Colossians 3v15-17

FRIDAY: Philippians 4v4-7

SATURDAY: John 14v25-27

Joy

SUNDAY: Psalm 96

MONDAY: John 16v22-24

TUESDAY: Psalm 5v11-12

WEDNESDAY: Zeph 3v14-17

THURSDAY: Luke 15v8-10

FRIDAY: Romans 12v12-15

SATURDAY: Psalm 16v9-11

Love

SUNDAY: Psalm 136

MONDAY: 1 John 4v7-21

TUESDAY: 1 Corinthians 13

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 1v18-25

THURSDAY: Luke 2v1-21

FRIDAY: Colossians 3v12-14

SATURDAY: John 13v34-35

The Kingdom of God is Among Us

SUNDAY: Psalm 24

MONDAY: Deuteronomy 30v11-14

TUESDAY: Psalm 145

WEDNESDAY: Luke 17v20-21