

## **Daily Bible Readings for December**

The readings this month are predictable and comforting at the same time. It's Advent, the time we look for the coming of Christ. And so the readings focus us on the predicament of the human condition as we await the coming of Christ at the end of time as the exalted King of Kings, and then somewhere around the second week of Advent the readings shift to a more prophetic look at how Jesus fulfills the longings of the nation of Israel as they anticipate the restoration of the Messianic hope. What's unique this year is that the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve, so we see readings for both days on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Our readings list comes from the Revised Common Lectionary recommended for use by the United Church of Christ and by many other Christian denominations in North America. The daily Bible readings are clustered into weeks with Sunday being the center of each week. The readings for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of each week orient our prayer and preparation for the Sunday lessons; the readings for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday reflect on Sunday's lessons.

In the worship of Grace Church we normally read only two lessons. However, many Sundays the Psalm for the day is also incorporated into the service as a Call to Worship or prayer.

### **First Week of Advent (Year B)**

|                              |   |                             |   |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Nov 30                       | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19<br>Zechariah 13:1-9<br>Revelation 14:6-13   | Dec 8                       | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13<br>Jeremiah 1:4-10<br>Acts 11:19-26  |
| Dec 1                        | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19<br>Zechariah 14:1-9<br>1 Thessalonians 4:1-18   | Dec 9                       | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13<br>Ezekiel 36:24-28<br>Mark 11:27-33   |
| Dec 2                        | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19<br>Micah 2:1-13<br>Matthew 24:15-31   | Dec 10                      | <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i><br>Isaiah 40:1-11<br>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13<br>2 Peter 3:8-15a<br>Mark 1:1-8 |
| Dec 3                        | <i>First Sunday of Advent</i><br>Isaiah 64:1-9<br>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19<br>1 Corinthians 1:3-9<br>Mark 13:24-37 | Dec 11                      | Psalm 27<br>Isaiah 26:7-15<br>Acts 2:37-42  |
| Dec 4                        | Psalm 79<br>Micah 4:1-5<br>Revelation 15:1-8  | Dec 12                      | Psalm 27<br>Isaiah 4:2-6<br>Acts 11:1-18  |
| Dec 5                        | Psalm 79<br>Micah 4:6-13<br>Revelation 18:1-10  | Dec 13                      | Psalm 27<br>Malachi 2:10—3:1<br>Luke 1:5-17   |
| Dec 6                        | Psalm 79<br>Micah 5:1-5a<br>Luke 21:34-38   | <b>Third Week of Advent</b> |   |
| <b>Second Week of Advent</b> |   | Dec 14                      | Psalm 126<br>Habakkuk 2:1-5<br>Philippians 3:7-11   |
| Dec 7                        | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13<br>Hosea 6:1-6<br>1 Thessalonians 1:2-10   | Dec 15                      | Psalm 126<br>Habakkuk 3:2-6<br>Philippians 3:12-16  |

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| Dec 16                       | Psalm 126<br>Habakkuk 3:13-19<br>Matthew 21:28-32   | Dec 25 | <i>Nativity of the Lord III</i><br>(p.m.) Isaiah 52:7-10<br>Psalm 98<br>Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]<br>John 1:1-14                               |
| Dec 17                       | <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i><br>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11<br>Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55<br>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24<br>John 1:6-8, 19-28  | Dec 26 | Psalm 148<br>Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15<br>Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60   |
| Dec 18                       | Psalm 125<br>1 Kings 18:1-18<br>Ephesians 6:10-17   | Dec 27 | Psalm 148<br>Exodus 33:18-23<br>1 John 1:1-9  |
| Dec 19                       | Psalm 125<br>2 Kings 2:9-22<br>Acts 3:17—4:4  | Dec 28 | Psalm 148<br>Jeremiah 31:15-17<br>Matthew 2:13-18   |
| Dec 20                       | Psalm 125<br>Malachi 3:16—4:6<br>Mark 9:9-13  | Dec 29 | Psalm 148<br>Isaiah 49:5-15<br>Matthew 12:46-50   |
| <b>Fourth Week of Advent</b> |   |        |   |
| Dec 21                       | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26<br>2 Samuel 6:1-11<br>Hebrews 1:1-4   | Dec 30 | Psalm 148<br>Proverbs 9:1-12<br>2 Peter 3:8-13  |
| Dec 22                       | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26<br>2 Samuel 6:12-19<br>Hebrews 1:5-14   | Dec 31 | <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i><br>Isaiah 61:10—62:3<br>Psalm 148<br>Galatians 4:4-7<br>Luke 2:22-40                                  |
| Dec 23                       | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26<br>Judges 13:2-24<br>John 7:40-52   | Jan 1  | <i>Holy Name of Jesus</i><br>(Mary, Mother of God)<br>Numbers 6:22-27<br>Psalm 8<br>Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11<br>Luke 2:15-21 |
| Dec 24                       | <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i><br>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16<br>Luke 1:46b-55<br>or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26<br>Romans 16:25-27<br>Luke 1:26-38 | Jan 1  | <i>New Year's Day</i><br>Ecclesiastes 3:1-13<br>Psalm 8<br>Revelation 21:1-6a<br>Matthew 25:31-46   |
| Dec 24                       | <i>Nativity of the Lord I</i><br>Isaiah 9:2-7<br>Psalm 96<br>Titus 2:11-14<br>Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]                                   | Jan 2  | Psalm 148<br>Proverbs 1:1-7<br>James 3:13-18  |
| Dec 25                       | <i>Nativity of the Lord II</i><br>(a.m.) Isaiah 62:6-12<br>Psalm 97<br>Titus 3:4-7<br>Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20                             |        |   |

