

**Church Families to pray for this week:**

Ann LePage

Cindy Little

Bill & Carol Mead

Sheila Molony

Linda Leschnitzer & Family

Jim & Gail Little

Landry Milnes & Amy Rice & Family

Nathaniel & Celina Morgan & Family

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**Things I'd like to remember from today's service:**

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## Weekly Scripture Readings

### January 28, 2024

*John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, instructed us to "stay in love with God" by worshipping, studying scripture, attending Communion, fasting and through public and private prayers. In order to help facilitate daily scripture reading and prayer, this insert contains readings for each day as well as a prayer for the week. The scriptures from Monday through Wednesday reference the readings for the prior Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday reference the scriptures for the following Sunday. We hope that these daily scripture readings and prayer will help you to deepen your relationship with God as we seek to live into our call to be disciples of Christ.*

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#### **Mark 1:21-28 (NRSV)**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

#### **1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NRSV)**

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 'Food

will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So, by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

### **Psalms 111 (NRSV)**

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.  
Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.  
Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.  
He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.  
He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.  
He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.  
The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.  
They are established for ever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.  
He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name.  
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (NRSV)**

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire,

I will die.’ Then the LORD replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.’

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

#### **Monday, January 29**

Psalm 35:1-10  
Numbers 22:1-21  
Acts 21:17-26

#### **Wednesday, January 31**

Psalm 35:1-10  
Jeremiah 29:1-14  
Mark 5:1-20

#### **Friday, February 2**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
Job 36:1-23  
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

#### **Tuesday, January 30**

Psalm 35:1-10  
Numbers 22:22-28  
1 Corinthians 7:32-40

#### **Thursday, February 1**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
Proverbs 12:10-21  
Galatians 5:2-15

#### **Saturday, February 3**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
Isaiah 46:1-13  
Matthew 12:9-14

**Prayer for the week:** Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, whose compassion illumines the world. Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Next Sunday:** The scripture readings for Sunday, February 4, are Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Romans 5:1-5 and Mark 1:29-39. Next Sunday, the message, "Weebles Wobble", will be on the passage from Romans. Next Sunday is a traditional service and also a communion service.

**Questions to help you prepare:** What does Romans tell us about suffering? Do you accept Paul's answer? Why or why not? Where have you found hope in the darkness? Why do you think that Weebles wobbling but not falling down is important? What does that mean for us as Christians? As leaders?

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