

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free. From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King. Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne. (The Hymnbook, no. 151)

- 13 Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Hebrews 11:6
- 14 Psalm 89
- 15 Hebrews 1-2
- 16 Hebrews 3-5:10
- 17 Hebrews 5:11-7
- 18 Hebrews 8-9
- 19 Hebrews 10

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. (The Hymnbook, no. 171)

- 20 Luke 1:38-56; Psalm 138
- 21 Luke 1:57-80; Joel 2:28-32; Jeremiah 31:27-34
- 22 Romans 10-11
- 23 Romans 12
- 24 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23
- 25 Psalm 47; Colossians 1:24-2:5
- 26 Isaiah 55

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! His Kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven. The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! He all His foes shall quell, shall all our sins destroy, and every bosom swell with pure seraphic joy. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! (Hymnbook, no. 140)

- 27 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 2:21-40
- 28 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
- 29 John 1:1-34; Ephesians 1:1-14
- 30 John 3; 5:24; 1 John 3
- 31 Psalm 90; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10



First Cup Readings

November – December 2015



Let the morning bring me word
of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.

-Psalm 143:8

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Blessings and love in
Christ,
*Sandy Sturch &
Claire Averyt*

NOVEMBER

- 1 Acts 19:1-20; 20:13-38; Revelation 2:1-7; 1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 4-11
- 2 James 2:5; Rev 2:8-11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Romans 5:3-5; James 1:1-12
- 3 Revelation 2:12-17 (see Num. 22-25); 2 Peter 2
- 4 1 Kings 16:29-34; 18:1-4, 17-21; 19:1-4; 21:5-23; Rev 2:18-29; 2 Peter 3:9
- 5 John 15:1-8; Luke 12:35-40; Revelation 3:1-6; 7:9-17; 2 Timothy 3:1-5
- 6 Revelation 3:7-13; Matthew 23:13-39; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22
- 7 Revelation 3:14-22; Matthew 19:16-30; James 1:9-11; Hebrews 12:1-13

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend. I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide. O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee that where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be. And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; Oh give me grace to follow my Master and my Friend. (Hymns for the Family of God, #402)

- 8 Isaiah 6:1-5; Ezekiel 1; Revelation 4; 1:4-6; Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:15-23
- 9 John 1:29-39; Revelation 5; Psalm 33; Philippians 2:1-11
- 10 Zechariah 1:8-17; 6:1-8; Revelation 6; Hebrews 11; Matthew 10:17-42
- 11 Revelation 7:1 - 8:5; 21:3-5; Psalm 23:1; John 10:11-18; Colossians 2:2-4, 12
- 12 Revelation 8:6 - 9:21; Romans 1:18-32; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- 13 Revelation 10-11; Daniel 2:44; 7:14, 27; Psalm 2
- 14 Matthew 2; 3:13-4:11; Rev 12:13-14; Job 1:9-11; Luke 10:18; 1 Peter 5:8-11

Work for the night is coming, work through the morning hours; work while the dew is sparkling, work 'mid the springing flowers. Work when the day grows brighter, work in the glowing sun; work for the night is coming, when man's work is done. Work till the last beam fadeth, fadeth to shine no more; work while the night is dark'ning, when man's work is o'er. (The Hymnbook, #297)

- 15 Revelation 13:1b-18; Luke 21:8-19; Romans 5:1-5; 15:4-6; 2 Corinthians 6:3-10
- 16 Revelation 14; Jeremiah 25:15-38; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Galatians 6:7-8
- 17 Revelation 15-16; Luke 12:35-40; Joel 2:13-14; Hebrews 12:14-29
- 18 Revelation 13:1-9; 17; John 16:33; Psalm 33; 37
- 19 Revelation 18; 6:9-11; Hebrews 11
- 20 Revelation 19; Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 2; John 3:16-21, 36
- 21 Revelation 20; Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 2:1-16; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne: Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee; and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity. Crown Him the Lord of life: who triumphed o'er the grave, who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save; His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die! (Hymns for the Family of God, #345)

- 22 Isaiah 60; 62; John 14:1-6; Revelation 21
- 23 Genesis 3:21-24; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-29; 3:5, 11-13, 21; 7:1-3; 22:1-21
- 24 Joel 1; Psalm 80:8-19; Zechariah 14; Matthew 24
- 25 Joel 2:1-27; Jeremiah 31
- 26 Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21; Romans 10:5-13
- 27 Joel 3
- 28 Amos 1-2; Leviticus 20:11-12

O Master, let me walk with Thee in lowly paths of service free. Tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love. Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way. Teach me Thy patience! Still with Thee n closer, dearer company, In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way, In peace that only Thou canst give, With Thee, O Master, let me live. (Worship in Song, #43)

- 29 Amos 3-4; Deuteronomy 11:8-32
- 30 Amos 5:6-6:7; 9:8; Jeremiah 44:24-28; Matthew 7:21-27; Revelation 3:14-22

DECEMBER

- 1 Isaiah 40; Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:4
- 2 Matthew 24
- 3 1 Thessalonians 4-5
- 4 2 Peter 3
- 5 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Corinthians 1:18; John 3:16-18

"Thy Kingdom come," on bended knee the passing ages pray; and faithful souls have yearned to see on earth that Kingdom's day. And lo! Already on the hills the flags of dawn appear. Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls, proclaim the day is near! The day in whose clear-shining light all wrong shall stand revealed; when justice shall be clothed with might and every hurt be healed; when knowledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth abroad; the day of perfect righteousness, the promised day of God. (The Hymnbook, no. 484)

- 6 Luke 1:37-80; 3:1-6
- 7 Matthew 3; 11:1-19
- 8 Mark 6:6b-29; Luke 14:26-27; Matthew 10:17-23
- 9 Isaiah 9:1-7; 11-12; Micah 5:2-5
- 10 Psalm 23; 28:6-9; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Zechariah 13:1-7; John 10:1-18
- 11 Psalm 46; Psalm 91
- 12 Psalm 143; 121