

The First Big Step Commitment

Abide and Pray

Week 8

Sunday, Dec 12

Isaiah 35

For Reflection: What has been your greatest joy? Which of the 10 verses in Isaiah 35 is God speaking to you – most clearly or insistently? What is God saying?

Lagniappe: Matthew 11:1-6

Monday, Dec 13

Luke 1:26-38

For Reflection: If you were Mary, what would have been the hardest and most wonderful aspect of the Gabriel message? OR In what personal relationship or circumstance do you need to trust that with God nothing is impossible?

Lagniappe: Isaiah 7:14

Tuesday, Dec 14

Matthew 1:18-25

For reflection: What do you learn about faith from yesterday and today's readings? How are they similar and different? Thank God for angels, huh? But it seems when they visit they call us to hard paths.

Lagniappe: Joel 2:28

Wednesday, Dec 15

Luke 1:39-45

For Reflection: With whom do you share the sacred moments in life? Mary is honored by Elizabeth for her belief. How are you feeling about the health of your faith? How often do you celebrate?

Lagniappe: Jeremiah 1:5

Thursday, Dec 16

Luke 1:46-55

For Reflection: Most people would be singing the blues if they were pregnant, far from home, and under a cloud of scandal. Which response comes easier for you, complaint or rejoicing?

Lagniappe: Psalm 147:5-6

Friday, Dec 17 Luke 2:1-7¹

¹ Luke includes a lot of historical detail. Clearly, he doesn't want us to think of these events as a story, but rather as history.

For Reflection: When has there been no room for you at the inn, or at the table, or in the circle of friends, or at the party? Sometimes the truly exciting stuff happens outside of or distant from where we want to be.

Lagniappe: Micah 5:2

Saturday Dec 18

Isaiah 60:1-3

For Reflection: How can you live good news authentically today? It's just about a week until Christmas, will your witness be that of a harried, overwhelmed soul this week or a rejoicing and at peace child of God?

Lagniappe: John 8:12 and Ephesians 5:14