

FIRST SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS

Directions: Read the scripture selected from the Revised Common Lectionary, perhaps before bed, in the morning, or during a family meal. Move through the discussion questions in one sitting or answer one a day to help reflect on the scripture throughout the week. End your time in prayer. This could be a simple ritual to incorporate into the week.

PSALM 148

Praise God!

Praise God from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!

Praise God, all God's angels;
praise God, all God's host!

Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!

Praise God, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of God,
for God commanded and they were created.

God established them forever and ever;
God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise God from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of God,
for God's name alone is exalted;
God's glory is above earth and heaven.

God has raised up a horn for God's people,
praise for all God's faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to God.

Praise God!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you like to give praise to God?
2. Looking back on this year, what has reminded you of God?
3. As a new year approaches, what things in your life can you praise God for?
4. How can you remember and celebrate people/things that are close to you?
5. How can you remember and celebrate people/things that are far away from you?