

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for December 28th to January 3rd



Nudges of the Spirit is currently a ministry of Deacon Carolyn Quinell and Denise Bersos.
This week's selections have been written by Denise

Sunday, December 28th Isaiah 61:10--62:3 / Psalm 147 or Psalm 147:13-21 / Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 / John 1:1-18 (*written by Denise*)

Isaiah 61:11 *For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.*

What a wonderful season of celebration and new birth we have just experienced. Christ has been born and planted in our hearts. As we nurture baby Jesus, our faith and love of God will be renewed and spring up. Life is alive and full of changes, and opportunities to grow in the spirit. There is something very cathartic about getting your hands dirty in the garden. The smell and feel of the soil has the power to bring us to the present. Planting seeds with anticipation that soon they will be sprouting into something beautiful, supports the fact that we do have faith. Nurturing the seeds, talking to the plants, watering and paying attention to them as they grow keeps us involved and motivated. What motivates you to grow in the spirit?

Jesus, your birth is a celebration! Show us how to nurture and care for your word so your love will grow all around us. Amen

Monday, December 29th (Holy Innocents) Jeremiah 31:15-17 / Psalm 124 / Revelation 21:1-7 / Matthew 2:13-18 (*written by Denise*)

Matthew 2:16 *When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated and sent and killed all children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.*

When you read about the Holy Innocents there is a lot of speculation around if this actually happened or not. From the history I read, it most likely happened. Looking into history and seeing who King Herod was, helps understand a bit better. There appears to be reports that he was very powerful and paranoid at this time in history. Now these cities are not very big, and you have to wonder how many babies were two and under at this time. That being said, if only one baby boy was murdered by King Herod, he would have been the first martyr of the church to die for Christ. He would have been unknowing and so innocent. Studying the Bible and the history is so very interesting. So much has happened before we arrived here. I invite you to read about The Holy Innocents. It is a very interesting time in history.

Jesus, thank you for opportunities to study your word. Teach us so we know the sacrifices that were made so we have freedom to pray and believe in you. Amen

Tuesday, December 30th 1 Kings 17:17-24 / Psalm 20, 21:1-7(8-14) / 3 John 1-15 / John 4:46-54 (*written by Denise*)

1 King 17:24 *So the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."*

I pay attention to people, and watch what they say, and then how they behave. There is an old saying "Do they walk the talk or do they just talk the talk?" Being a Christian is not an easy path. When Jesus asks us to follow him, he leads us into the suffering, just as the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. In our Bible study lessons for our Stewardship campaign day 7, Acts 16:19-34 stood out to me. In the mist of Paul and Silas's suffering they were singing songs of praise and praying. Their faith in Christ gave them joy that ran deeper than their situation.

LORD, may our demonstrations of faith grow so strong that others say that they believe the truth of the word of God because we live lives as people of God. Amen

Wednesday, December 31st 1 Kings 3:5-14 / Psalm 46, 48 / James 4:13-17; 5:7-11 / John 5:1-15 *(written by Denise)*

James 5:11 *Indeed we call blessed those who show endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

I do not know how people handle hardships without a personal relationship with God. My concept of God has changed over the years as I have continued to seek and know God. I do know now in my heart of hearts that the Lord is compassionate and merciful. This knowing is my saving grace. Before I did a Bible study on the Old Testament, my ideas were that God was vengeful and punishing. I did not trust him completely, and I suffered because of this belief. God has entered my heart in a miraculous way through the studies. I know that I may not like the circumstances that happen to us but I do know now, with all my heart, God is right there with us with his compassion and mercy.

LORD, help us understand and learn through your teachings the truth of who you are. May we see your hand in our lives as you give you support, and gather others to be there with us, when we endure unpleasant circumstances. Amen

Thursday, January 1st (The Holy Name) Numbers 6:22-27 / Psalm 8 / Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11 / Luke 2:15-21 *(written by Denise)*

Numbers 6:24 *The Lord bless you and keep you...*

Perfect blessing as we begin a new year. Happy New Year, and welcome into 2026! The New Year always feels like a new beginning. There is a doorway (most of us pass through in our sleep, when we get older) that takes us from one year into the next. We define time as linear on this earth, and this is a day that has more meaning than most that starts us fresh and new! We cross the threshold with new visions, swearing to let go of the past, resolutions to do and be better, new hope, fresh courage. May we allow God to lead us in prayer together, as we begin 2026!

Lord God, we are beginning this New Year and ask that you lead the way. Show us where you want us, and how we can be of service to you today and each new day in 2026. Amen

Friday, January 2nd 1 Kings 19:1-8 / Psalm 34 / Ephesians 4:1-16 / John 6:1-14 *(written by Denise)*

Ephesians 4:16 *...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*

We are all a part of this amazing body of Christ. We all belong, and are joined and knitted together. It is each of our responsibility to keep ourselves healthy so that we can spread wellness and love to the rest of the body to keep it healthy. Sometimes we become ill and need other cells of the body to pour their love into us until we can be strong again. Giving and receiving are part of the same flow. We have instructions on how to obedient to the spirit in order to stay healthy, and help those who are suffering. What is one loving thing you can do to help the body be healthy today?

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may we learn the truth about the body, the church, your love. Amen

Saturday, January 3rd 1 Kings 19:9-18 / Psalm 68 / Ephesians 4:17-32 / John 6:15-27 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 68:3 *But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.*

I like this answer I found on Google, when I asked what makes a person righteous in God's eyes: "In Christianity, a person is made righteous in God's eyes not through their own good deeds, but by receiving the 'righteousness of Christ' through faith. This is a gift from God, where a believer's sins are placed on Jesus, and His perfect righteousness is then credited to them" Wow, right!?!? We should be singing, and shouting with joy in the streets, in the pews, in the stores. This is the perfect gift, and it is given to us by God, who loves us so much. Our joy can be contagious and bubbling over with a gift this miraculous! Amen!

God, Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

