

*Today:*  
**December 21, 2014**

**Scripture Focus:** Luke 1:8-24, 57-66

When Elizabeth was full-term in her pregnancy, she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives, seeing that God had overwhelmed her with mercy, celebrated with her. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and were calling him Zachariah after his father. But his mother intervened: “No. He is to be called John.” “But,” they said, “no one in your family is named that.” They used sign language to ask Zachariah what he wanted him named.

Asking for a tablet, Zachariah wrote, “His name is to be John.” That took everyone by surprise. Surprise followed surprise—Zachariah’s mouth was now open, his tongue loose, and he was talking, praising God! A deep, reverential fear settled over the neighborhood, and in all that Judean hill country people talked about nothing else. Everyone who heard about it took it to heart, wondering, “What will become of this child? Clearly, God has his hand in this.”

*(Luke 1:57-66, Message)*

**Notes from Worship:**

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

**Questions for Discussion:**

- Have you ever seen a vision or experienced anything others would call “miraculous”? What about having a spiritual prediction fulfilled?
- How do you tend to respond when bad things (e.g. barrenness) happen to good people (e.g. Elizabeth and Zechariah)?
- What importance do you attach to a name given to a newborn child?

# *This Week:*

# December 22-27

## Scripture Readings:

Monday 12/22	Tuesday 12/23	Wednesday 12/24	Thursday 12/25	Friday 12/26	Saturday 12/27
Psalm 81, 88, 92-93	1 Chronicles 7-9	2 Sam. 5:1-10, 1 Chron. 11-12, Psalm 133	2 Samuel 5:11—6:23, 1 Chron. 13-16	Psalm 15, 23-25, 47	Psalm 89, 96, 100-101, 107

## Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

### **Monday**

What does it mean for God to reign today? (see Psalm 93)

### **Tuesday**

What stands out to you in these chapters?

### **Wednesday**

Why did people devote themselves to David?

### **Thursday**

What is the significance of the ark in these chapters?

### **Friday**

These are some powerful Psalms about us putting our trust in God. Which words and phrases jump out to you? Why?

### **Saturday**

Several of these Psalms talk about singing. What is the significance of singing our praises to God? How is singing our praises different than speaking our praises?

## Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we continue in seasons of Advent, Christmas and the life of Jesus, our memory texts change to the New Testament, beginning with **Hebrews 1:1-3a**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

## **Next Sunday: December 28**

**Theme:** Christmas celebration

**Scripture Focus:** Luke 2:1-20