

The United Church of Canada
Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Lennoxville United Church

A service for personal meditations at home - January 2022

Grounding Prayer

(Take a deep breath, center yourself within the love of God)

God, You are present, may I be transformed by this encounter.

Opening Prayer:

Be with us, God, as we set out on the journey of a new year. Like those who have travelled through uncharted territories in the past, give us the courage to face new challenges.

Like those who have known the uncertainty of what lies ahead, give us the confidence to know that you are there to guide us.

Like those who have assumed they had all of the answers even before the questions were asked, give us the humility to be surprised by your presence and open to being upheld by your people everywhere. *(a time of silent reflection)*

Give us the strength we need, the sensitivity others need from us, and the wisdom to respond in ways that nurture all of creation. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination:

O God of the ages: As I open the scriptures this day, let me take heart, for you are calling me. As I seek your will for me, free my spirit to receive the truths that you have for me today. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Living Word, I listen with my heart, my mind and my spirit.