

Rejoice Greatly

Readings and Reflection for December 22-28

SONGS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH:

There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field
And the Angel Said to Them
And Suddenly There Was With the Angel
Glory to God
Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion
Hallelujah Chorus



SCRIPTURES:

Luke 2:1-14 Zechariah 9:9-17 Revelation 19:1-8

REFLECTION:

- Belly laugh with someone. Look for laughter and multiply it this week.
- What do you need to do or not do in order to rejoice with all your soul this Christmas?

PRAYER:

Receive and Rejoice!
Rejoice with an indescribable joy. Inexpressible. Unspeakable.
A joy greater than words
A great and glorious joy. Loose. Liberated. Boundless.

Receive and Rejoice!

A joy worthy of new birth, of a living hope
A joy anchored in the imperishable, The Eternal.
Undeiled and Unfading

Receive and Rejoice!

This joy was chosen for you. Destined for you.
Sanctified, sprinkled, and saved for you.
By the Merciful One. The One Who is With You.
Receive and Rejoice!

~ Receive and Rejoice, by Lisa Degrenia

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Readings and Reflection for December 1-7

SONGS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH:

Comfort Ye
Every Valley
And the Glory of the Lord



SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 40:1-5 Luke 1:57-80 Matthew 3:1-12

REFLECTION:

- What in you needs to be lifted up or made low?
- How are you preparing the way for those suffering from falsehood, prejudice, and injustice? Those yet to believe?

PRAYER:

The time is now, for you have called
The place is now, for you have spoken
Yes, it is a wilderness, a desert even
So dry, so rough, so uneven
Yes, the gap is so very wide between the high and the low

But, you have called, O God. You have spoken.
Not an *if* or *when* or *maybe*. Not even a *try*.
You have spoken *shall*
Every valley *shall* be lifted
Every mountain *shall* be made low
The uneven *shall* be made level
The rough *shall* be made smooth

So we will persevere in this wilderness of preparing
We will not forge a path or blaze a trail but make a highway
A highway for your coming
For your glory, O God *shall* be revealed in this place
And all *shall* see it
All *shall* see it together

~ Shall, by Lisa Degrenia

Lift Up Your Voice

Readings and Reflection for December 8-14

SONGS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH:

Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 1:18-23 Isaiah 40:6-11 Luke 1:39-56

REFLECTION:

- How are you intentionally sharing the good tidings of Christmas?
- Make three invitations this week to worship or another Christmas gathering.

PRAYER:

Jesus, Your message is sacred
Holy, Set Apart, Treasured

Your message is eternal
Timeless, Lasting, a Firm Foundation

Your message is salvation
Deliverance, Wholeness, Grace

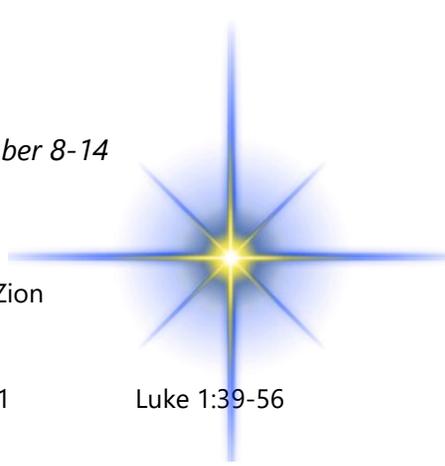
We bow before your commission
to receive and bear your message into the world

Show us when to speak and give us the words
Never for our agenda, for yours alone

Show us what to do and give us the strength
Never for our achievement, for yours alone

Show others we are from you by your power at work through us
Never for our glory, for yours alone

~ For Yours Alone, by Lisa Degrenia



Arise, Shine

Readings and Reflection for December 15-21

SONGS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH:

For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth
The People That Walked in Darkness
For Unto Us a Child is Born

SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 60:1-7 Isaiah 9:2-7 John 1:1-14

REFLECTION:

- Where do you see people "letting their light shine" in our community?
- What local problem or situation most needs the light and love of Christ? How will you arise and shine to address this need?

PRAYER:

Jesus, your light makes us light
What a gift to be made in your image
To reflect your grace and hope, your power and peacemaking
Hallelujah! Help us shine!

Share your light with all, near and far,
Beyond our imagining to your imagining and desiring
A beam worthy of the stretch of your embrace. Worthy of your glory.
Jesus, help us shine!

Unveiled, Bright, Shining before others and for others
So others see you in us and are drawn to your Light

You bathe us in the light of your grace, that we may be grace
You fill us with the light of your truth that we may be truth
You flood us with the light of your love that we may be love

Hallelujah! Come Glorious One, Lord of Life and Light!
Dispel the darkness.

Reveal what is real so we no longer fear the night nor the light
Dawn in us a new day and a new us. Help us shine!

~ Help Us Shine, by Lisa Degrenia

