

# FIRST CUP READINGS DECEMBER, 2020

Dear Family in Christ,

*First Cup* is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Blessings and love in Christ, Sandy Sturch



Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.— Psalm 143:8

- 1 Isaiah 40; Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:4
- 2 Matthew 24
- 3 1 Thessalonians 4-5
- 4 2 Peter 3
- 5 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Corinthians 1:18; John 3:16-18

*"Thy Kingdom come," on bended knee the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see on earth that Kingdom's day.  
And lo! Already on the hills the flags of dawn appear. Gird  
up your loins, ye prophet souls, proclaim the day is near! The day  
in whose clear-shining light all wrong shall stand revealed; when  
justice shall be clothed with might and every hurt be healed; when  
knowledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth abroad;  
the day of perfect righteousness, the promised day of God. (The  
Hymnbook, #484)*

- 6 Luke 1:37-80; 3:1-6
- 7 Matthew 3; 11:1-19
- 8 Mark 6:6b-29; Luke 14:26-27; Matthew 10:17-23
- 9 Isaiah 9:1-7; 11-12; Micah 5:2-5
- 10 Psalm 23; 28:6-9; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Zechariah 13:1-7;  
John 10:1-18
- 11 Psalm 46; Psalm 91
- 12 Psalm 143; 121

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart. Born Thy  
people to deliver, born a child and yet a King. Born to reign in us  
forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal  
Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all-sufficient merit raise  
us to Thy glorious throne. (The Hymnbook, #151)*

- 13 Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38;  
Hebrews 11:6
- 14 Psalm 89
- 15 Hebrews 1-2
- 16 Hebrews 3-5:10
- 17 Hebrews 5:11-7
- 18 Hebrews 8-9
- 19 Hebrews 10

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy  
deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark  
streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hope and fears of all the  
years are met in thee tonight. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend  
to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come  
to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. (The Hymnbook, #171)*

- 20 Luke 1:38-56; Psalm 138
- 21 Luke 1:57-80; Joel 2:28-32; Jeremiah 31:27-34
- 22 Romans 10-11
- 23 Romans 12
- 24 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23
- 25 Psalm 47; Colossians 1:24-2:5
- 26 Isaiah 55

*Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice,  
give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart, lift  
up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! His Kingdom cannot  
fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven. The keys of death and hell are  
to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice,  
again I say, rejoice! He all His foes shall quell, shall all our sins  
destroy, and every bosom swell with pure seraphic joy. Lift up your  
heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice! (Hymnbook,  
#140)*

- 27 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 2:21-40
- 28 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
- 29 John 1:1-34; Ephesians 1:1-14
- 30 John 3; 5:24; 1 John 3
- 31 Psalm 90; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10