

## Scripture Readings

### Genesis 49: 22-26

Joseph is a fruitful bough,  
a fruitful bough by a spring;  
his branches run over the wall.  
The archers fiercely attacked him;  
they shot at him and pressed him hard.  
Yet his bow remained taut,  
and his arms were made agile  
by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob,  
by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,  
by the God of your father, who will help you,  
by the Almighty who will bless you  
with blessings of heaven above,  
blessings of the deep that lies beneath,  
blessings of the breasts and of the womb.  
The blessings of your father  
are stronger than the blessings of the eternal mountains,  
the bounties of the everlasting hills;  
may they be on the head of Joseph,  
on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

### Luke 2: 25-35

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

**Matthew 28: 20b**

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## **COMMUNION SERVICE**

### **INVITATION**

### **PRAYER OF OPEN HEARTS**

**May we turn again to you, O God, in ways that move us beyond ego to wholeness, beyond judgement to healing, beyond self-serving to generosity. May we know you in the whole of life, in both the blessings and the burdens of our lives. Heal our hurts and open our hearts this day as we return to love again. Amen.**

### **BLESSING OF GRACE**

### **GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **SHARING OF PEACE**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We give thanks, O God, for all who have gathered round this table. For the food and cup of blessing which delight and nourish us and for companionship that sustains us. May we know the fullness of your presence at every meal and in all our sharing this day and always, AMEN.**

*It is the practice of this church to serve grape juice in our communion service.  
Bread is gluten-free.*