

Shalom

(Lenten Devotion/Donation Calendar, 2021)

These daily scripture readings are taken from our church's Lenten Devotionals with a focus on *shalom*. As we devote ourselves to moving toward peace through scripture readings and daily devotionals, may we also build peace in our community and our world through giving to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We invite members of our congregation, young and old, individuals and families, to join us in our Devotion/Donation Lenten observance. Each week features daily scripture readings along with a giving focus (5 days), a service focus (1 day), and a prayer focus (Sundays during Lent). You are welcome to undertake the challenge of 40 days of giving, or you are welcome to give donations and acts of service on a weekly basis or as you feel led. Donations may be left in the church fellowship hall or can be picked up the week after Easter (please call the church office to arrange pick-up). Donations will be given to the Catherine Barber Memorial Homeless Shelter and Samaritan's Kitchen, as well as specified church offerings.

May you find wholeness and peace as you meditate upon God's word and as you reach out to God's children during this season of Lent. Shalom!

Wednesday, February 17th:

Finally, brothers and sisters.....agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. — 2 Corinthians 13:11

Giving Focus: Breakfast foods (boxed cereal)

Thursday, February 18th:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. — Matthew 5:9

Giving Focus: Breakfast foods (pop-tarts)

Friday, February 19th:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. — John 14:27

Giving Focus: Breakfast foods (breakfast bars [nutri-grain, etc])

Saturday, February 20th:

Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy. — Proverbs 12:20

Giving Focus: Breakfast foods (juice boxes)

Sunday, February 21st:

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. — Ephesians 2:14

Prayer Focus: write on strips of fabric or paper your prayers for justice in your community and in the world. Hang them someplace (a clothesline in your kitchen, a tree, a fence, etc.) for all to read.

Monday, February 22nd:

Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace — in peace because they trust in you. — Isaiah 26:3

Giving Focus: Snack foods (Nabs or other packaged crackers)

Tuesday, February 23rd:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:6–7

Giving Focus: Snack foods (packaged snacks such as Little Debbie's, etc.)

Wednesday, February 24th:

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Psalm 85:8–10

Service Focus: Call a shut-in or elderly person to see how they are doing

Thursday, February 25th:

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. — Colossians 3:15

Giving Focus: Snack foods (boxed crackers, such as Saltines or Ritz)

Friday, February 26th:

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God.... — Genesis 28:20

Giving Focus: Snack foods (Peanut butter)

Saturday, February 27th:

Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, "Please let me go back to my kindred in Egypt and see whether they are still living." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." — Exodus 4:18

Giving Focus: Snack foods (packaged peanuts, almonds, or other nut snacks)

Sunday, February 28th:

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. — Luke 2:8–11 (NRSV)

Prayer Focus: Think about those close to you who are feeling restless or scared this Lenten season. Write their names down on strips of cloth or paper and pray for peace to wash over them. Add these strips of cloth or paper to your prayer "tree" or fence.

Monday, March 1st:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. — John 14:27

Giving Focus: Vegetables (canned green beans)

Tuesday, March 2nd:

In accordance with his promises, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish. — 2 Peter 3:13, 14

Giving Focus: Vegetables (canned corn)

Wednesday, March 3rd:

Hannah was praying silently....."I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.....I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him". — 1 Samuel 1: 16, 17

Service Focus: Send a card to a shut-in or elderly member of our church

Thursday, March 4th:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." — Isaiah 52:7

Giving Focus: Vegetables (canned tomatoes or tomato sauce)

Friday, March 5th:

Deceit is in the mind of those who plan evil, but those who counsel peace have joy. — Proverbs 12:20

Giving Focus: Vegetables (canned pinto beans or black beans)

Saturday, March 6th:

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God." — Genesis 28:21

Giving Focus: Vegetables (canned potatoes or sweet potatoes)

Sunday, March 7th:

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. — Psalm 4:8

Prayer Focus: Add to your prayer "tree" petitions for those who are afraid, for those who harbor resentment and for those who perhaps have turned away from God. Write their name (or even your name, if need be) on a strip of fabric or paper. Pray over each name. Now prepare for the third week of Lent by thinking about healing and wholeness.

Monday, March 8th:

....For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit... Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. — Romans 14:13–21

Giving Focus: Fruit (jars of applesauce)

Tuesday, March 9th:

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. — 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13

Giving Focus: Fruit (individual snack-size containers of fruit)

Wednesday, March 10th:

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. — Luke 1:78–79

Service Focus: Pick up a plastic grocery bag full of trash from your street or road (safely!). Alternatively, collect all your plastic grocery bags and include them with your food donations for recycling.

Thursday, March 11th:

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy. — Proverbs 3:13–18

Giving Focus: Fruit (canned peaches or pears)

Friday, March 12th:

And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you. — Psalm 39:7

Giving Focus: Fruit (fruit roll-up style of snacks)

Saturday, March 13th:

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. — John 15:13–17

Giving Focus: Fruit (snack-size boxes of raisins or other dried fruit)

Sunday, March 14th:

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. — Romans 8:24–25

Prayer Focus: This past week, the daily devotionals talked about healing and wholeness. Add to your prayer "tree" petitions for those who are in need of healing, be it physical, emotional or spiritual.

Monday, March 15th:

One thing I ask of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. — Psalm 27:4

Giving Focus: Grains (rice)

Tuesday, March 16th:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." — Revelation 21:1–5

Giving Focus: Grains (boxed macaroni and cheese)

Wednesday, March 17th:

Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock. — Isaiah 26:4

Service Focus: Do a random act of kindness

Thursday, March 18th:

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you. — 1 Peter 1:3b–4

Giving Focus: Grains (box of spaghetti)

Friday, March 19th:

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. — 2 Corinthians 5:17–18

Giving Focus: Grains (oats or instant oatmeal)

Saturday, March 20th:

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times. — Matthew 18:21–22

Giving Focus: Grains (small bag of flour)

Sunday, March 21st:

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. — Amos 5:24

Prayer Focus: This past week, the daily devotionals talked about a hope that is unseen, which can bring peace. Add to your prayer "tree" all that you are hoping for in this world. Hope for hunger to ease. Hope for poverty to banish. Hope for healthcare for all. Give it to God in prayer.

Monday, March 22nd:

When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers. — Proverbs 21:15

Giving Focus: Toiletries (toilet paper)

Tuesday, March 23rd:

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" — Esther 4:14

Giving Focus: Toiletries (toothbrush)

Wednesday, March 24th:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. — Luke 4:18

Service Focus: Thank a member of the armed services or a front-line worker for their service. This can be a phone call, a card or letter, or just taking the time to thank them when you see them.

Thursday, March 25th:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? — Micah 6:8

Giving Focus: Toiletries (toothpaste [travel-size or regular])

Friday, March 26th:

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. — 2 Peter 3:11–13

Giving Focus: Toiletries (hand sanitizer, soap, or wipes)

Saturday, March, 27th:

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. — 1 Corinthians 1:10

Giving Focus: Toiletries (feminine products or deodorant)

Sunday, March 28th:

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.
— Isaiah 1:17

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.” — Luke 19:38–40

Prayer Focus: Each day during Holy Week, think about the hope we have in the promise of the resurrection and add prayers to your tree, railing or fence; make them prayers for the “new” things you are hoping for in your life.

Monday, March 29th:

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. — Romans 12:18

Giving Focus: Miscellaneous (spaghetti sauce [to go with the spaghetti from Week 4])

Tuesday, March 30th:

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. — Matthew 5:23–24

Giving Focus: Miscellaneous (canned meat, such as tuna, Vienna sausages, etc.)

Wednesday, March 31st:

He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother. But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. — Genesis 33:3–4

Service Focus: do an errand for a neighbor or shut-in, such as bringing in their mail, picking up their groceries, etc. Alternatively, contribute a day's loose change for our church's Matthew 25 offering.

Thursday, April 1st:

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." — John 13:34–35

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. — Psalm 89:14

Giving Focus: Miscellaneous (grape juice and crackers or bread in commemoration of Maundy Thursday)

Friday, April 2nd:

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. — John 19:16b–17

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. — Romans 5:10

Giving Focus: \$5-\$10 gift card for fast-food restaurants such as McDonald's, BoJangles, Wendy's, Burger King, Subway, Chick Fil A, etc. for use by our homeless community

Saturday, April 3rd:

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. — Matthew 27:57–61

To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. — Proverbs 21:3

Giving Focus: Miscellaneous (contribution of any amount to PCUSA's "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering)

Sunday, April 4th:

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. — Luke 24:1–12

Prayer Focus: "God of resurrection hope, thank you for the promise that death never has the last word. Thank you for how darkness always gives way to light. But most of all, thank you for the light of your Son, Jesus, that shines brightly in our lives. As we begin this season of Eastertide, may we hear our Risen Lord greet us with "Shalom" and may that wish for peace become a reality in our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Shalom!