GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAMILY WORSHIP

Winter 2026–2027

Jesus commissions His church to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20). The family is an important institution in which disciples are made and grow. The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church aims to help families make disciples.

One practice is family worship. Family worship is a daily, intentional, sustained exercise of reading Scripture, prayer, asking questions, and singing with your family, so that you talk about the whole counsel of God with your family. Family worship is an old, time-tested, Scriptural practice. In Deut. 6:7, the Lord gives responsibility to teach God's commands in a family: "*You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."* In Ephesians 6:4, Paul gives a particular instruction to fathers: "*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* Clement of Alexandria (153- 217) preached that husband and wife should practice united prayer and Scripture reading every morning. In a book to his wife, Tertullian (142-220) commended spiritual unity of marriage through prayer, the Word of God, and singing. The Westminster Confession of Faith, 21.6, states, "but God is to be worshiped everywhere, in spirit and truth; as, in private families daily." Missionary John Paton explains the impact of family worship upon his own life: "When, on his knees and all of us kneeling around him in Family Worship, [father] poured out his whole soul with tears…for every…need, we all felt as if in the presence of the living Saviour, and learned to know and love Him as our Divine Friend."

The Method

There are three key ingredients to family worship: Scripture, singing, and prayer. First, reading Scripture and teaching Scripture is central. Our goal should be to help all members of the family develop a love for God's word. Asking questions, such as the

catechism, are helpful. Letting the children ask questions, even read a portion, can make sure to involve them.

Second, God's people sing! Psalm 118:15 says, *"Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous."* The New Testament call to address one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19). Martin Luther once said, "next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." Singing songs of the Psalter or the Hymnal are crucial, instructing us and our children on the truths of God's Word.

Third, prayer is the chief way in which we show gratitude to God and give to Him our requests. Paul writes in Philippians 4:6, "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."*

Implementation

To help families disciple, the Session has prepared a Family Worship Guide. This guide includes daily Scripture readings and a weekly prayer. A song is also suggested that will also be sung during congregational worship.

To implement family worship, we offer a few words of advice. First, strive for simplicity. Simplicity can breed understanding instead of confusion. Second, strive for regularity, whether it is the same days of the week or times of the day. Regularity helps clarify expectations. Third, strive for variety. Ask children to read the Bible. Act out the story.

Our desire is to follow Jesus's commission to make disciples. This is a guide to begin with the family. We pray it will be a blessing to you.

Notes on the Readings for Winter 2026–2027

The readings for Winter 2026–2027 take you through the first twelve chapters of Luke. Luke wrote so that Theophilus might have certainty concerning the things he had been taught (Luke 1:4), and he begins not in Bethlehem but in the temple, with an old priest who had stopped expecting anything. The opening chapters are full of songs — Mary's, Zechariah's, the angels', Simeon's — and they are the songs of people who had waited a long time. We read them slowly through Advent on purpose; the first three weeks are shorter than the rest.

From chapter three onward Luke anchors Jesus in the history of the world: a list of emperors and governors and high priests, a genealogy running back to Adam, and a wilderness where the Son of God is tempted as Israel was tempted. Then He stands up in the synagogue at Nazareth, reads from Isaiah, and says, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). The chapters that follow show what that fulfillment looks like: lepers cleansed, sins forgiven, a widow's son raised, a storm stilled, and crowds who cannot decide what to make of Him.

As you read with your family, watch for Luke's particular care for the people everyone else overlooked — shepherds, a centurion, a sinful woman, a Samaritan, Mary sitting where the disciples sat. And watch for the question the whole book is driving toward, which Jesus finally puts to His disciples at Caesarea Philippi: "But who do you say that I am?" (Luke 9:20). The readings for Spring 2027 will take up Luke 13–24.

Week of November 29, 2026

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Luke 1:1-4
Day 2	Luke 1:5-10
Day 3	Luke 1:11-17
Day 4	Luke 1:18-25
Day 5	Luke 1:26-33

Weekly Hymn, #297 “Lift Up Your Heads”

Week of December 6, 2026

O Lord, raise up, we pray Thee, Thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, Thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of Thy Son our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be honour and glory, world without end. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Luke 1:34-38
Day 2	Luke 1:39-45
Day 3	Luke 1:46-50
Day 4	Luke 1:51-56
Day 5	Luke 1:57-66

Weekly Hymn, #300 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Week of December 13, 2026

Almighty God, who hast given us Thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made Thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Luke 1:67-75
Day 2	Luke 1:76-80
Day 3	Luke 2:1-7
Day 4	Luke 2:8-14
Day 5	Luke 2:15-20

Weekly Hymn, #299 “Joy to the World”

Week of December 20, 2026

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know Thee, a heart to seek Thee, wisdom to find Thee, conduct pleasing to Thee, faithful perseverance in waiting for Thee, and a hope of finally embracing Thee. Amen. (Thomas Aquinas)

Day 1	Luke 2:21-32
Day 2	Luke 2:33-40
Day 3	Luke 2:41-52
Day 4	Luke 3:1-9
Day 5	Luke 3:10-20

Weekly Hymn, #319 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Week of December 27, 2026

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in faith; strengthen Thou me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust Thee altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in Thee. Amen. (Martin Luther)

Day 1	Luke 3:21-38
Day 2	Luke 4:1-13
Day 3	Luke 4:14-21
Day 4	Luke 4:22-30
Day 5	Luke 4:31-44

Weekly Hymn, #216 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Week of January 3, 2027

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest Thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant that we, who know Thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of Thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Luke 5:1-11
Day 2	Luke 5:12-16
Day 3	Luke 5:17-26
Day 4	Luke 5:27-39
Day 5	Luke 6:1-11

Weekly Hymn, #374 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

Week of January 10, 2027

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of Thy people, and grant us Thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Luke 6:12-19
Day 2	Luke 6:20-26
Day 3	Luke 6:27-36
Day 4	Luke 6:37-49
Day 5	Luke 7:1-10

Weekly Hymn, #380 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Week of January 17, 2027

Late have I loved Thee, O Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved Thee! And behold, Thou wert within and I abroad, and there I searched for Thee. Thou wert with me, but I was not with Thee. Thou didst call and cry aloud, and burst my deafness; Thou didst gleam and shine, and chase away my blindness; Thou didst breathe fragrance upon me, and I drew breath, and now I pant for Thee. Amen. (Augustine)

Day 1	Luke 7:11-17
Day 2	Luke 7:18-28
Day 3	Luke 7:29-35
Day 4	Luke 7:36-50
Day 5	Luke 8:1-15

Weekly Hymn, #236 “To God Be the Glory”

Week of January 24, 2027

O Lord our God, teach us, we beseech Thee, to ask Thee aright for the right blessings. Steer Thou the vessel of our life toward Thyself, Thou tranquil haven of all storm-tossed souls. Show us the course wherein we should go. Renew a willing spirit within us. Let Thy Spirit curb our wayward senses, and guide and enable us unto that which is our true good, to keep Thy laws, and in all our works evermore to rejoice in Thy glorious and gladdening presence. Amen. (Basil of Caesarea)

Day 1	Luke 8:16-25
Day 2	Luke 8:26-39
Day 3	Luke 8:40-48
Day 4	Luke 8:49-56
Day 5	Luke 9:1-9

Weekly Hymn, #229 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Week of January 31, 2027

O God, who on the mount didst reveal to chosen witnesses Thine only-begotten Son wonderfully transfigured: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may be permitted to behold the King in His beauty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Luke 9:10-17
Day 2	Luke 9:18-27
Day 3	Luke 9:28-36
Day 4	Luke 9:37-45
Day 5	Luke 9:46-56

Weekly Hymn, #224 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Week of February 7, 2027

I acknowledge, O Lord, and I give Thee thanks that Thou hast created in me this Thy image, so that I may remember Thee, think of Thee, and love Thee. But it is so worn away by sin, so clouded by the smoke of my wrongdoing, that it cannot do what it was made to do unless Thou renew and refashion it. I do not seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe that I may understand; for this too I believe, that unless I believe I shall not understand. Amen. (Anselm)

Day 1	Luke 9:57-62
Day 2	Luke 10:1-12
Day 3	Luke 10:13-24
Day 4	Luke 10:25-37
Day 5	Luke 10:38-42

Weekly Hymn, #281 “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Week of February 14, 2027

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of Thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Luke 11:1-13
Day 2	Luke 11:14-26
Day 3	Luke 11:27-36
Day 4	Luke 11:37-44
Day 5	Luke 11:45-54

Weekly Hymn, #247 “We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator”

Week of February 21, 2027

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Day 1	Luke 12:1-12
Day 2	Luke 12:13-21
Day 3	Luke 12:22-34
Day 4	Luke 12:35-48
Day 5	Luke 12:49-59

Weekly Hymn, #219 “O Worship the King”