

JULY 4, 2022  
INDEPENDENCE DAY



*Christian faith and freedom to work for good.*

## INDEPENDENCE DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Independence Day observance.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 29:4-14</b>	<b>God has a plan for the people</b>
	<b>Psalms 33:8-22</b>	<b>Sing praises to the Lord</b>
	<b>Galatians 6:1-10</b>	<b>Bear one another's burdens</b>
	<b>Mark 12:13-17</b>	<b>Give to God what is God's</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for Independence Day:**

Almighty God, help us to use our freedom with good courage to bear one another's burdens and to love all people for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you for the fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, for the abundant seas, and for all the ways you bless this country with ample food. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God set you free to love and serve others through Christ our Lord.



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HYMN FOR  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*



## INDEPENDENCE DAY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Where is your favorite place to visit in the United States? Why?
- What do the words "to form a more perfect union" from the preamble of the Constitution of the United States mean to you?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Galatians 6:1-10.

The Fourth of July offers a time to celebrate freedom and independence from oppressive powers. The words in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal," is an ideal we should strive for in this life. The framers of the U.S. Constitution acknowledge this with the goal "to form a more perfect Union," expressing the desire to move closer to the ideal. This ideal includes men and women from all races, cultures, and backgrounds. Words spoken by the Apostle Paul "let us not grow weary in doing what is right" (v. 9) and, "let us work for the good of all" (v. 10), also address these ideals and desires. To celebrate American independence creates a special opportunity to live the Christian faith by bearing each other's burdens, and, thereby, fulfilling the law of Christ, the law of love. As we celebrate the Fourth of July and the freedoms we have, it is good to also celebrate the Christian faith and the freedom to work for the good of all people. That is a day worth celebrating.

*Discuss:* In what ways can freedom in Christ play a role in guiding freedom in our country?

*Pray:* **Liberating God, lead us with your compassion for all as we seek your blessings of justice and mercy for our country and world through Jesus Christ the one who sets us free. Amen.**

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Independence Day Bible Readings and theme for this day, how might you use your freedom in Christ to work for the good of all people?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Colorful fireworks in the night sky and sparklers and fireworks on the ground are popular ways to celebrate Independence Day. The church uses candles to remember the light of Christ that takes away the darkness of human brokenness. This Fourth of July, use a sparkler or candle to honor the true light that lights the world. Let it be a reminder of how we can use our freedom in Christ for the good of all. As you light the candle or sparkler, say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)