

**Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry**

**December 24, 2025 – January 4, 2026**

**Christmas**

**Let It Go! – the light of  
Christ**

15 Minutes     **Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.***

Prayer     All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ELW p20)

45 Minutes **Introduction:** As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore! (from Sundays and Seasons)

**Discussion Questions:**

Read again Luke 2: 1-20

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time!?

How does this story encourage you to share the light of Christ?

Where are places you see the light of Christ breaking in?

Read again John 1:1-18

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

How does this story encourage you to share the light of Christ?

How does the light of Christ lead to life?

What do we know about God from seeing Jesus?

Read again Matthew 2:13-23

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

Why is this a challenging yet important part of the Christmas story?

What does this have to reveal to us today?

How does the light of Christ give us hope to offer those who have/are suffering unjustly?

20 Minutes     **Prayer Requests and Prayer**

10 Minutes     **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session**