

# ***Deepening Our Faith Journey***

Week #13: December 6, 2015

**Exercises for the week:** It's the Advent/Christmas season, and it will be easy to get frazzled from the tasks that are laid on us, and that we choose, during this season.

Is there something you can "say no to" this season? Some years, with our cards, we send a letter denoting our activities of the year just ending. This year we will simplify things and simply send greetings. What can you let go of if it seems too much?

In terms of simplifying our consumer habits this time of year, and helping someone truly in need, how about using the ELCA Good Gifts program or Heifer International to give chickens or a portion of a goat, or school supplies, in a friend or loved one's name, to someone in the world really in need?

**This week's daily readings:** The people have come back from exile in Babylon, and they set about the task of rebuilding the temple.

Many of the people rejoice when they see the foundation laid. But some older people, who saw the previous temple built by Solomon, weep when they see that it will not be the same.

What from your past needs to be let go of? What is the new future God is creating on the horizon? Envision yourself being open to God's future.

Sunday, Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-8

Monday, Ezra 3:5-13

Tuesday, Ezra 4:1-5

Wednesday, Ezra 4:6-24

Thursday, Ezra 5:1-17

Friday, Ezra 6:13-18

Saturday, Ezra 6:19-22

As I listen for God's voice, what is God asking me to do, change or become?

I invite you to print this sheet and place in your Bible.