

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

January 4, 2026

“Children of God”

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14;
John 1:10-18

Today's Big Idea

Every human being is a child of God. But children who come home enter into profound blessing and the joy of inviting their siblings further up and in .

Articulating the thread: Children of God

I have become a Father to Israel: Jeremiah 31:8
He has not dealt thus with any other nation: Psalm 147:20
He destined us for adoption as His children: Ephesians 1:5
He gave the power to become children of God: John 1:12

Children of God by Being

Aren't all humans God's children in a very real sense?
We are indeed His offspring: Acts 17:26-28
God so loves the world: John 3:16
The two sons at the beginning of the story: Luke 15:11

Children of God by Receiving

His own did not receive Him: John 1:11
Those who received Him, the right to **become** children of God: John 1:12
Children of exile **coming home**, coming in through Jesus the door: John 10:4
The prodigal son who leaves home (highway): Luke 15:12-16
The eldest son who refuses to come in (my way): Luke 15:28
God **adopts** back His own children back into His house: Ephesians 1:5; Hosea 11

The Blessings of the Children of God

Food, water, warmth, rest, safety, belonging, love
The miracle of the removal of the hard shell around the heart: Ezekiel 36:26-28
Every blessing: adoption, redemption, forgiveness, knowledge, inheritance, Spirit
Now to be a blessing, a living invitation to come in: Genesis 12:3
The flow of Ephesians: Be imitators of God, walk in love: Ephesians 5:1
Loving our far-off and near-by out-of-home siblings **as siblings**

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread:
"Children of God"

<i>Jeremiah 31:8-9</i>	<i>Psalms 147:12-14, 20</i>	<i>Ephesians 1:3-6</i>	<i>John 1:10-13</i>
<p>8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. 9 With weeping they shall come, and with consolation I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, or I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.</p>	<p>12 Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! 13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. 14 He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. 20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the Lord!</p>	<p>3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.</p>	<p>10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.</p>

Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern?

Baptism of the Lord - January 11, 2026 - Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17