

**December 7 Worship**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent- Peace**  
**Greeters/Readers- Dan Smith, Chris Kenney**

**Announcements/Joys**

**Time Of Quiet Meditation-** *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9:6

**Lighting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle/Peace-** Hopkins Family

**Special Music-** Peace In The Valley- *T. Dorsey*

**Opening Scripture-** Isaiah 11:1-10(page 595-596)

**Opening Chorus-** 69- O, Come Let Us Adore Him(vs 2)

**Responsive Call To Worship-**

Leader: We come to prepare the way;

**People: The way for Christ , the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ, to enter our world, to enter our hearts.**

Leader: We cry out together in the wilderness: The kingdom of heaven has come near.

**People: We come to be part of the light, the light that shines in the darkness.**

**Hymn of Praise-** 4- All hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

**Unison Prayer/Lord's Prayer-** Holy God, We long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the Name of the One who taught us to pray, saying...*Lord's Prayer...*

*“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.*

*Amen.”*

**Gloria Patri-** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end.  
Amen, Amen.

**Old Testament Scripture-** Psalm 72:1-7(page 504)

**Special Music-**

**Gospel Scripture-** Matthew 3:1-12(page 836-837)

**Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn-** 136- Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

**New Testament Scripture-** Romans 15:12-13(page 989)

### **Message**

#### *“The Price For Peace”*

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!” This is the proclamation of the angels when they announced Jesus' birth in the gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verse 14. The peace that the angels were speaking of is not the kind of peace that we commonly think of when the topic comes up. In the first place, there is something being said that most people totally disregard. Let's read it again; “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace ***among men with whom He is well pleased.***” God's peace is given, in this context, to only those who have pleased Him. This seems, at first glance, to be unfair of God since we think that God gives to all. This is true, God offers His love and peace to all of His creation but He only gives it to those who please Him.

What are some characteristics of God's Peace? God's Peace is described as a state of wholeness and completeness that comes from a relationship with Him. It is not influenced by external circumstances and remains constant even in times of trouble. “Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7) God's Peace is rooted in faith and trust in God, transcending human understanding. It provides comfort and assurance, knowing that God is in control and will work things out for good. “We know that in

everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28) Unlike worldly peace, which can be fleeting and fragile, God's Peace is permanent and secure. It is not affected by the chaos of life and offers a sense of calm in the midst of storms.

What are some characteristics of World's Peace? The world's peace is often defined by a lack of conflict or disturbance, relying on favorable circumstances and human relationships. It is superficial and can easily be disrupted by challenges or crises. This type of peace is contingent upon external factors, such as financial stability, social harmony, or personal success. When these conditions change, so does the sense of peace. Worldly peace can crumble in times of adversity, leaving individuals feeling anxious and unsettled. It often fails to address the deeper issues of the human condition, such as sin and brokenness.

God's Peace offers a profound sense of security and calm that is not reliant on external circumstances, while the world's peace is temporary and often superficial, easily shaken by life's challenges. Embracing God's Peace involves trusting in His promises and recognizing the true tranquility comes from within, rooted in faith and a relationship with Him. There are 3 main ways that peace is used in the Bible; first, there is spiritual peace, peace between God and man. Second, there is psychological peace, peace within. Third, there is relational peace, peace among mankind. The Bible says that sin has destroyed or seriously affected all three of these dimensions of peace. When man was created, he was at peace with God, with himself, and with others. But when he rebelled against God, man lost peace in every way. These dimensions of peace can be restored. Man cannot bring this about, but God certainly can, and has.

During this Advent Season, we are reminded of certain key traits that illuminate this celebration; Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Each of these conditions are gifts given by God to lift up humanity and cause us to focus on something other than the overwhelming commercial aspect of Christmas. All 4 of these themes of the season are important and can, if we allow them to be, our priority during what can be a stressful period. Finding God's Peace during this hectic time may seem to be more than we can handle. There is so much that has to be done and so little time to do it. How in the world am I supposed to get through it? Guess what? We can't do it in the world. God's Peace only comes to us through a blending of our spirits with the Holy Spirit. When things get so hectic, we must stop and turn to God. Not when we think we'll have the time, right now. When we are in turmoil, God is waiting for us to stop and ask Him for His Peace.

When we speak of “Peace on Earth” we have every right to pray for conflict between people to stop. A world that seems to thrive on conflict is not conducive to making us feel good about life. We live in a world that has been in conflict forever.

As hard as we try, we, human beings, are powerless to stop it. We have heard it said, "Peace through strength." The country with the biggest stick is supposed to be able to keep other nations at bay through fear of retaliation. This only works until someone else gets the idea that they might have a bigger stick. Our national freedom and peace come at a cost and that cost is usually measured in the blood of those whose job it is to protect us. God's Peace also comes with the cost in blood, the blood of just one. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for us to have the Peace of God.

The peace that we celebrate today is special. God has offered us a way to find comfort in the most challenging of times. It takes some effort but allowing ourselves the blessing of God's inner peace is worth the effort. While world peace is built on strength, God's Peace requires humility. When we humble ourselves and allow Jesus to take our cares, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" will come to us and sustain us through any problem this world can present. Praise Be to God. Amen.

**Prayers of the People-** Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right. May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others. Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men were created. In Jesus Holy Name we pray. Amen.

**Communion Hymn-** 380- Take My Life And let It Be

**Thanksgiving Prayer-** Dear Jesus, as we take this communion, we receive Your peace into our hearts. In the midst of chaos, fear, or uncertainty, let the remembrance of Your sacrifice calm our souls. You are our peace. Let the bread and wine speak comfort to our spirits and remind us that You are in control. Lord Jesus, fill us with peace through this communion. Anchor our souls in Your presence despite the storms around us. Amen.

**Closing Hymn-** 272- When He Cometh

**Benediction-** As we leave this place, and scatter back out into the world, may the

God of hope, who loves us and gave himself for us, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him, today and throughout the coming week, so that in believing, we may abound in hope, through the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Go in Peace. Amen.