



The Heart of Advent: Midweek Advent 2 December 9, 2020



WELCOME:

Welcome to midweek Advent worship at Desert Cross. We are so glad that you are here with us. During the season of Advent, we are encouraged to pause, to take time to reflect and prepare ourselves for the upcoming birth of Christ. This season we will focus on four elements of our spiritual life that grow out of our relationship with God: hope, peace, joy and love. In our worship today, we will focus on peace.

Let us begin with prayer.

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us pray:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.
Give us courage and faith to proclaim, in word and deed,
the good news of your coming,
even as we wait in peace
for that day when Christ will come again.

Amen.

ADVENT SONG: "Come, Light Our Hearts"

Chorus:

For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our peace is in You
Truly our peace is in You

Verse 1:

O, Lord of life our only peace
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts

Chorus:

For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our peace is in You
Truly our peace is in You

Verse 2:

Oh, joy above all other loves
In You we find more than enough
We come as we are O heal and restore
Come light our hearts

HOLY SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 11:1-10

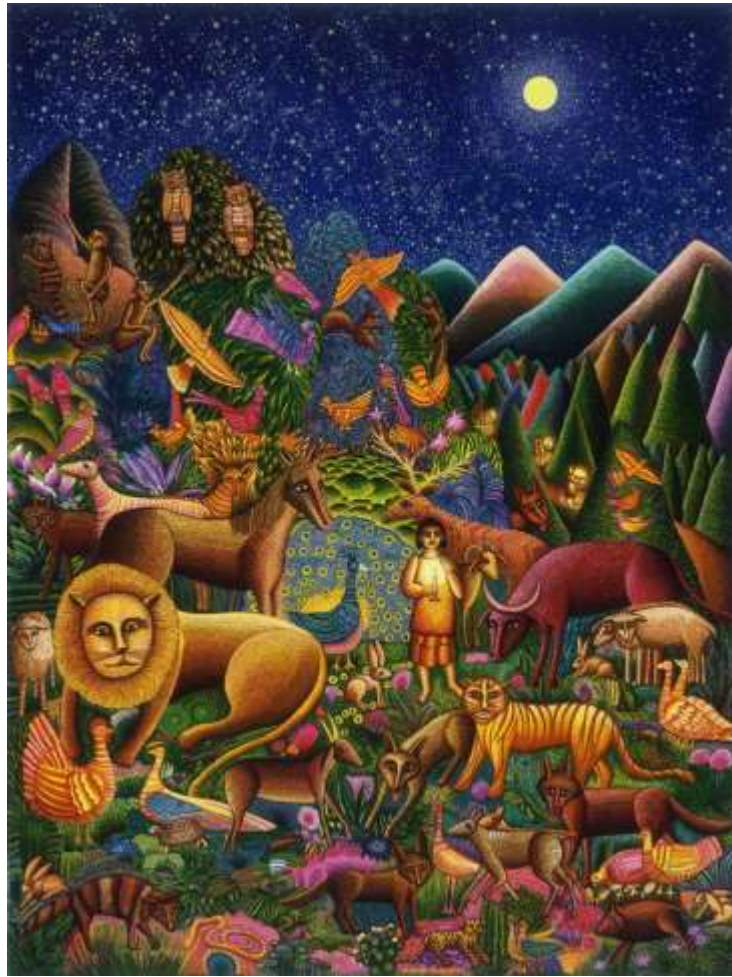
¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his
mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the
wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his
waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the
asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the
adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the
LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a
signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Luke 1:57-58, 67-79

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth,
and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives
heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy
to her, and they rejoiced with her.
⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the
Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:
⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and
redeemed them.
⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy
prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and
from the hand of all who hate us.
⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our
ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor
Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the
hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and
righteousness
before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the
Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his
ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in
the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

ART: *Peaceable Kingdom*

by John August Swanson



Swanson, John August. Peaceable Kingdom, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN www.JohnAugustSwanson.com - © 1994

MEDITATION: Pastor Andrea Cain

MEDITATION SONG: ELW 252 "Each Winter as The Year Grows Older" (Verses 1,3,5)

- 1 Each winter as the year grows older,
we each grow older, too.
The chill sets in a little colder;
the verities we knew
seem shaken and untrue.

- 3 Yet I believe beyond believing
that life can spring from death,
that growth can flower from our grieving,
that we can catch our breath
and turn transfixed by faith.

- 5 O Child of ecstasy and sorrows,
O Prince of peace and pain,
brighten today's world by tomorrow's,
renew our lives again;
Lord Jesus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.
Text © 1971 United Church Press.

ADVENT PRAYER:

O God of Peace, our fears and anxiety narrow our view so that we see only what is broken and wrong and miss the signs of peace that you have woven through the fabric of our lives. Open our eyes and ears and embolden our hands and hearts to share your peace.

Trusting in your mercy and relying on the peace you inspire, we lift to you our prayers:

- ✠ we pray for healing for all those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, especially those who are ill because of Covid,
- ✠ we pray for strength for all health care workers and first responders, for all essential workers, and caretakers,
- ✠ we pray for wisdom for scientists working on a vaccine, and for the leaders of nations, as they strive to protect their people from the virus and violence,
- ✠ we pray for sufficient resources for all people who are homeless, poor, unemployed and food insecure,
- ✠ we pray for peace and an end to divisions in our nation and in our world.

We trust that you will answer our prayers according to your gracious will.

During this Advent season of holy waiting and preparation, open our hearts to the peace that is ours through the coming of Christ. Help us to remember that in times of darkness and despair, Christ came that we might have peace. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Verse 1

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony

Verse 2

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

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BENEDICTION:

Immanuel is coming,
Peace is the promise of God,
Peace is grounded in God's faithfulness;
peace, not fear;
peace, not doubt;
peace, not despair;
peace, not anguish.
May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus. +