



Peace

— IN BEAVERTON —

The Promise of Peace

If recorded history is any indication, peace is elusive for humanity. It doesn't matter whether among it's nations, people groups, or even family members, discord is the norm. Despite this, we long for peace and the rest it brings to the depths of our souls. Why is it so hard to find peace?

Perhaps it's because we're often chasing a mirage. We look for soul-rest in sturdy finances, an absence of conflict, control over situations, or even in mind-altering substances. These can all offer a semblance of peace, a temporary respite from anxiety and hostility. However, none of them offer a peace that lasts.

In Jesus, God offers us a true and enduring peace. When we see Jesus for who He is, God with us, we recognize that our Creator enters our mess to set things right, to bring us peace. Jesus' coming proclaims, without ambiguity, that He isn't offering us escape from our circumstances. Instead, He enters into them fully and brings His peace with Him. What began in Bethlehem will spread to all humanity. To all who will come to Him, Jesus offers rest and His peace. What began with a single, divine Human is now a global movement.

DAILY READINGS & PRAYER:

DEC 8: ROMANS 15:13 Our God brings us a joyful peace as we trust in His goodness and faithfulness. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us this joy and peace.

Pray for the peace of Jesus to reign over this holiday season. Pray also that those who are time-pressured and priority-challenged would seek Jesus for His peace.

DEC 9: MATTHEW 11:28-30 Rest for one's soul might be the best definition of peace. When we experience true peace, we are at rest in the deepest parts of who we are.

Pray that people in our community would learn from Jesus in this season and find the peace of His rest.

DEC 10: ISAIAH 9:6 The simple, poor, and vulnerable child born to Mary was destined to be a King, but, as He said, His Kingdom was “not of this world.” It would be a Kingdom of peace and security amidst hostility and uncertainty.

Pray that the Prince of Peace, Jesus, would be known this holiday season and that many would find Him to be their heart’s rest.

DEC 11: ISAIAH 52:7 Where God reigns, peace reigns. It’s that simple. Whether to a heart or a nation, it’s King Jesus who brings the Good News of His peace, offered freely to all.

Pray that the Gospel would truly be good news and received with joy by all who seek peace this Christmas.

DEC 12: JOHN 14:27 The peace that Jesus gives is different from any other. We can find a semblance of “peace” from other sources but none are so enduring as the peace of Christ.

Pray for the peace that Jesus gives would rule in our hearts, making us an attractive fragrance for a world riven with strife.

DEC 13: COLOSSIANS 3:15 Our hearts are the wellspring of our lives and when peace rules there it impacts all of our relationships, especially those with other Jesus followers.

Pray that peace-filled communities of faith would serve as beacons calling our city to the Prince of Peace.

DEC 14: PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 When we give voice to the anxiety in our lives, when we speak of it to God, He grants us a supernatural peace that is impossible to explain.

Pray for a heaven-born peace to rest on all who labor under the clouds of anxiousness and uncertainty.

Clean, Peaceful Water



Jesus said in John 4 that he came to bring us Living Water, God's presence within us that leads to eternal life. When we receive Him as promised, peace begins to displace the anxiety and hostility in our lives.

Pastor Titus Luther, who lives in the Solomon Islands, has dedicated himself to bringing Living Water to the people there, people who have been shaped by war for centuries. He has a simple strategy: give them clean, "living" water as a foretaste of what Jesus can do for them. It's a powerful ministry model because clean water can transform the health of a community in radical ways, just

as Jesus can transform hearts in equally radical fashion.

We partner with Pastor Titus by providing water filters, drilling equipment, and even expert training. Titus Luther's ministry also trains pastors, who drill wells. They work hard to unite a war-like people who were once at odds with one another.

You can help him by giving during our B4 Advent offering. Every dollar received supports this ministry and others like it that we work with, both near and far. To give, write "B4 Advent" on your check. If you'd rather give on-line, simply select "B4 Advent."