

# *The Advent Disciple*

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## ***PEACE***

Listen to the Prophet  
Isaiah:

*A shoot shall come out  
from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow  
out of his roots. The  
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.*

*His 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; but 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.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and  
faithfulness the belt around his loins.*

*The 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. The cow and  
the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child  
shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child  
shall put its hand on the adder's den.*

*They 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. On 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.*

**Isaiah 11: 1-10**

Advent is about peace. And we do so long for peace. We live in a world of chaos and discord. tough-talking, gun-wielding musclemen. Our streets are dangerous. Our civil dialogue has given way to rudeness. In all of it, we long for peace.



*And he will  
be called  
Wonderful  
Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting  
Father,  
Prince of  
Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

The state of our minds often mirrors the state of our world. We juggle hyperactive schedules, fragmented families, and hypertensive pressures. We worry about our children, we agonize over how to care for our parents, and no job seems secure. Our choices of antacid are outnumbered only by our spiritual options. We grasp for gurus and scan self-help books in serial confusion. Stress is the name of our days. And we do so long for peace.

Surely the peace of our world starts with the peace of a heart. We are reminded that there is a peace of God which passes all understanding. At the core of each of us, if we will only listen, there is a still, small voice which can calm our fears, quiet our lives, and dispel our desperation. At the heart of each of us, if we only seek it, there is a spirit that rests in the grace of God. An assurance at the center of our lives can tame the chaos at the edges.

That spirit of God is also the hope of our world. Peace can come only when we can understand each other, knowing that God's spirit makes us truly one. In the breast of my enemy, I can feel my own fear. Peace is possible because we share that one spirit that rests in the presence of God.

Not one of us is a stranger to the other. Every passion or malice that might separate us I can find and recognize in my own heart, and so our differences lose their force. We are one with each other, and one with God, and that is a peace beyond the power of any stress or violence that can assault us. As we await the Bringer of Peace, the peace of God is already with us.

Let us pray:

Prepare the way! The promise is come!

**The lion shall dwell with the lamb.**

Prepare the way! The old with the young!

**A child shall teach us to stand.**

Prepare the way! Make the paths straight!

**Earth shall fill her deep valleys!**

Prepare the way! Break down walls of hate!

**The Way is approaching! Servants keep watch.**

**Soon we shall see the salvation of our God!**

*Provided by Rev. Thad Allen, regional minister in the Northeastern, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia regions*



# HOLYNAME CALLING

## LEADER, SAVIOR, PIONEER, PERFECTER

The word that's usually translated "leader" above actually means something more like, "instigator." For Christians, Jesus the one who starts it all, blazes the way for us to follow (pioneer), figures out the best ways to do stuff (perfecter), and rescues us when it all goes sideways (savior). So much of the trouble in our lives comes from all the ways we insist on going our own way, making our own path, figuring out everything on our own. There's nothing inherently wrong with that, and sometimes it's very good. But if you were to find a little peace in laying down your relentless individualism once in a while and knowing that somebody else is ultimately in charge, you wouldn't be the first!

## READ

Acts 5:31

*God exalted Jesus as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance...and forgiveness of sins.*

Hebrews 12:1–2

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

## THIS WEEK

- Perfect a tradition. Think of a thing your family always does around Christmas time: decorating, setting up a nativity scene, making special foods, DIY crafts as presents. How can you perfect it a little more this year by making it more loving, more generous, more faithful, or more beautiful, for Jesus' sake?
- Call each other some names this week. Who in your house is the instigator - of trouble, of fun, of schemes and plans? Who's the pioneer, trying out new ideas and new ways of doing things? Who's the perfecter, helping get everything just right? Who's the savior, swooping in to help right when it's needed most?



Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace,  
**And we give in peace.**

A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear.

**A peace growing from our trust in your loving power.**

Receive these generous offerings,  
**And use them to bring your peace to our world.**  
**Amen.**

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## Advent Calendar

(Actions, Questions, Things to Ponder that will help you experience the  
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the Season)

<p><b>December 7</b></p> <p>Turn everything off, stop working, and enjoy the simple pleasures of life</p>	<p><b>December 8</b></p> <p>Buy nothing today and focus on treasures that can't be bought or sold.</p>	<p><b>December 9</b></p> <p>Start a conversation... If you could have one question answered about your future...What would it be?</p>	<p><b>December 10</b></p> <p>If you are online... Using words that begin with the first letter of your name, What are you thankful for?</p>
<p><b>December 11</b></p> <p>Give something away. Your heart will feel lighter and the world will be better for it.</p>	<p><b>December 12</b></p> <p>Make some Peppermint hot cocoa and drink it in a cozy spot. Taste and see that God is good</p>	<p><b>December 13</b></p> <p>Send some treats to a friend's pet or your local animal shelter</p>	<p><b>December 14</b></p> <p>Look, listen and watch for God's love and life all around</p>

For the second week in Advent, we focus on peace.

In John 14:27, Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

*Two purple candles are lit.*

Prince of Peace, reveal yourself to us today. We need peace in our lives, our homes, our families, our church, and our whole world. Help us to slow down and seek out the peace you provide, so we may become peacemakers for ourselves and others. In your name, Prince of Peace, we pray.

Amen.



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —  
**ADVENT**