



Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2012

PEACE

Today we relight the candle of HOPE. We also light the candle for the second Sunday in Advent...the candle of PEACE. As we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus offers us—and those around us hope and peace.

From the prophet Isaiah:

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6-7 NRS

From the letter to the church at Ephesus:

Do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:30-32 NLT

Let's pray together:

Dear God,
As we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace.
Peace in our conflicted spirits,
Peace in our very human homes,
Peace in our very human neighborhood and workplace.
Peace with You through Jesus.
Amen.

Family Questions:

Jesus came to bring peace in our relationship with God—and to make us people who value peace with others.

1. Why does God want people to get along?
2. Have you ever helped people who are fighting to become friends again?
3. How about the opposite? Has there been a time when, by our words or actions, we might have caused other people to not like or be mad at someone?
4. Is there something that you could do this week to help people have a better relationship and show God's love by being "a peacemaker"?

For Adults:

1. Often Christians are seen as the MOST CONTENTIOUS and exclusive kind of people. Do you know of a believer who really seems to be able to bring others together?
2. How does this happen? What do you think helps them do this?
3. If you don't know, would you be willing to call this person up this week and ask how God helps them be a bridge builder with others?



Where the rubber meets the road...

What is a difficult situation between people that we're aware of and how might God want us to begin building a bridge this month? What would that look like in action? What obstacles would we face? As people of Hope and Peace...can we picture this as God's project with us helping him?