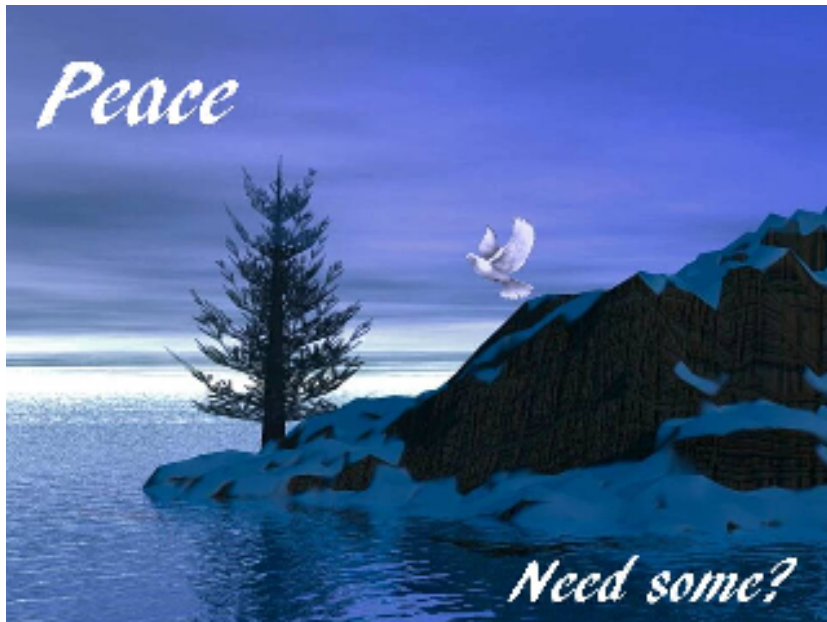


God's Gift of Peace  
Luke 2:8-14

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**Biblical Peace**

- **A Blessing from God – Numbers 6:24-26**
- **Propheied by Zechariah – Luke 1:79**
- **Announced at Christ's birth – Luke 2:14**
- **Promised by Jesus – John 14:25-27**
- **Found in Jesus – John 16:33**
- **Flows from a dependent relationship with God – Philippians 4:6-9**
- **All are called to a life of peace – Col. 3:15**

**Two Aspects of Peace**

- I. Peace as the opposite of war and conflict.**
- II. Peace as the opposite of fear and worry.**

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

**Four Pictures of Peace**

- 1. Trust – *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. John 14:1***
- 2. Home – *In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. John 14:2***
- 3. New Animal Kingdom – Isaiah 11:6-9**

#### **4. Shalom – an all-encompassing well-being**

**Jeremiah 33:6; Psalm 4:8; Lev. 26:6;  
Psalm 29:11; Psalm 127:2**

**Truth and justice in action**

**The Prayer of St. Francis**

**Peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.**

**Peace flows out of a loving and dependent relationship with God.**

**We can exchange our fears and worries for His love and peace.**

***I Arise Today* sung by Rita Connolly (from the CD, *The Pilgrim* composed by Shaun Davey)  
– a translation of an 8<sup>th</sup> Century poem/prayer for protection against the perils faced by medieval travelers.**

***The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.***

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#### **Things to Think About:**

**Do you have a picture of what peace looks like? What is it?**

**What kinds of things regularly disturb your peace?**

**What fears and worries do you have right now?**

**Take some time to think about and talk about the concept of ‘shalom’. How would you describe it? Is it attainable?**

**How can addressing issues of justice bring peace to our world?**

**Do you trust God? Why?**

**Our peace is found in Jesus. What does that mean? How does this get lived out?**

**Take some time to exchange your fears for Christ’s peace.**

**Take some time to read and meditate on the Biblical references to peace in these sermon notes. What do you sense God saying to you about His gift of peace?**

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