

WORSHIP FOR Sunday 13th December

3rd Sunday in Advent - THE ARRIVAL OF PEACE

Peace in a person, peace that can't be explained,
peace that comes in the middle of the storm,
and passes understanding. Peace that envelops
our hearts when we need it most, when we
need Him most.

A prayer Loving, faithful God, as your people of
old waited and watched for Your coming to
earth in Jesus, so we wait and watch.

As we come before you now -

Fill us with your light



*(If you have an Advent wreath with you please
symbolically light the candle now)*

LET'S SING TOGETHER

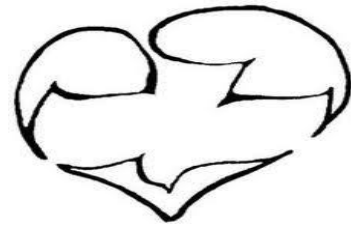
It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heaven's all gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long,
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years

Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And all the world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.



BIBLE READING

One of the hallmarks of the Christmas story
is when the angels appear to the shepherds
and proclaim "peace on earth"

Luke 2 vs 14 "suddenly a great company of
the heavenly host appeared with the angel,
praising God and saying "Glory to God in the
highest heaven, and on earth peace and
goodwill to all" KGV

LET'S REFLECT I recently watched a TV
programme about diamond mining. Diamonds
were formed over 3 billion years ago - wow -
this happened deep within the earth's crust
under conditions of intense heat and pressure
that cause carbon atoms to crystalize and form
diamonds. These gems are only formed
through such conditions.
I'm sure that most people would say they'd love
life to be straight forward, without hassle,
pressure, pain, worries, sadness, struggle. But
life is not like that. Just as the earth is fragile
and complex so are we human beings.
Very often there's no a quick fix to the pressure
of life, and the so called 'diamonds' which are
formed in our hearts and minds at these times,
are not always immediately clear. It can take
some times to discover & realise the 'peace of
God', the ultimate divine power and energy,
which held and supported us through.

To understand the Peace of God is almost
impossible at times, apart from believing that
God is performing a miracle for us. But to
experience the peace of God can lead to such a
sense of joy - that's not the same as happiness
that we gain from human life and 'things' and
people' - but a deep deep joy which causes us
to say - "God I know you're here with me in all
this, thank you".

Many times the disciples learned and
experienced the peace of God for themselves, in

storms, through death, mistakes, rejections, and devastation. The promise through the Incarnation (incarnation means God living in us us - which is what happened in Jesus birth) is that His peace can be ours now. I realise that this can be very hard to comprehend when we are 'in the dark moment' but please trust God, Turn to Him, seek, ask, find and receive this gift of peace which will lead you through the biggest of struggles.

ROMANS 5 VS 13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him. So that you may overflow with hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit

THE OTHER ASPECT OF PEACE WHICH WE ALL LONG FOR IS PEACE ON EARTH - as opposed to battles and noise.

Let's pray for this peace

Lord Jesus

Where there is violence, war, battles, bloodshed and fear

Lord bring **Peace in the world**

Where there's division & anger in our country community, towns

Lord bring **Peace in our groups**

Where there is sadness, separation, misunderstanding

Lord bring **Peace in our families**

When we feel unsettled, upset, confused, worried

Lord bring **Peace in our hearts**

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and yours minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen**



LET'S SING OR SAY THIS HYMN

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 us walk with each other, in perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me

let this be the moment now

With every step I take let this be our 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

OUR OFFERING - Lord we pause now to remember all the blessings great and small which are ours. Thank you. And we ask you to bless our gifts of money, and ourselves, so that others can be led to know you for themselves. **AMEN**

LET'S PRAISE GOD TOGETHER....

JOY TO THE WORLD! the Lord has come;

Let earth receive her King.

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;

Your sweetest songs employ.

While fields and streams and hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

The wonders of His love,

The wonders of His love,

The wonders, the wonders of His love.

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A blessing Through our waiting, needing, hoping, suffering, bless us and your children everywhere with your peace and our joy. **AMEN**