

*“The Gift of Peace”*

“A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes, does various unessential things, and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside is not a bad picture of Advent.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

One may think of a diver first reducing himself to nakedness, then glancing in mid-air, then gone with a splash, vanished, rushing down through green and warm water into black and cold water, down through the increasing pressure into the deathlike region of ooze and slime and old decay, and then back up again, back to color and light, his lungs almost bursting until suddenly he breaks the surface again, holding in his hand the dripping, precious thing he went down to recover. That dripping, precious thing is you and I, and Advent is when we celebrate his coming down to us.

- C.S. Lewis

## **Jeremiah 29:11**

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

*“Christ came to bring peace and we celebrate his coming by making peace impossible for six weeks of each year.”*

**- A.W. Tozer**

# **I. Longing for Peace**

## **Luke 2:14**

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace, good will toward men.” KJV

I'd like to build the world a home And furnish it  
with love Grow apple trees and honeybees And  
snow-white turtle doves

I'd like to teach the world to sing In perfect  
harmony; I'd like to hold it in my arms And  
keep it company

I'd like to see the world for once All standing  
hand in hand; And hear them echo through the  
hills For peace throughout the land

That's the song I hear; Let the world sing today  
A song of peace that echoes on And never goes  
away



## **Luke 2:14**

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace, good will toward men.” KJV

*“Glory to God in the highest and on earth,  
peace among men with whom He is pleased.”  
(NAS)*

*“Glory to God in the highest and on earth  
peace to men on whom his favor rests.” (NIV)*

## *Epictetus*

*“While the emperor may give peace from war on land and sea, he is unable to give peace from passion, grief and envy. He cannot give peace of heart, for which man yearns, more than even for outward peace.”*

**I. Longing for Peace**

**II. The Peace of Christmas**

*A. Peace with God*

## **Romans 5:1**

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have *peace with God* through our Lord Jesus Christ ...”

## **Romans 5:9,10**

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be *saved from the wrath of God* through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

*“Without justification it is impossible to have real peace. Conscience forbids it. Sin is a mountain between a man and God, and must be taken away. The sense of guilt lies heavy on the heart and must be removed. Unpardoned sin will murder peace. The true Christian knows all this well. His peace arises from a consciousness of his sins being forgiven, and his guilt being put away. ... He has peace with God, because he is justified.”*

*- J.C. Ryle*

**I. Longing for Peace**

**II. The Peace of Christmas**

*A. Peace with God*

*B. Peace of God*

## **Philippians 4:6,7**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the *peace of God*, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



*“Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God.”*

**- J. Oswald Sanders**

**I. Longing for Peace**

**II. The Peace of Christmas**

*A. Peace with God*

*B. Peace of God*

*C. Peace with Others*

## **Proverbs 16:7**

“When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

*“Grace and peace are twin sisters, grace being the firstborn. Where grace abounds, peace thrives. Where grace is stunted, peace shrivels.”* -Charles Stanley

*"Peace is the result of grace. It literally means, 'to bind together'. In other words, the peace which comes from unmerited, unearned love can weave and bind our fragmented lives into wholeness. And the civil war of divergent drives, which makes us feel like rubber bands stretched in all directions, is ended. The Lord is in control. He has forgiven the past, He is in charge of now, and shows the way for each new day."*

*-Lloyd John Ogilvie*

