

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Peaceful Kingdom" 12/6/23

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)*

Strengthened in the dark with hope, we continue our Advent journey and this Sunday we will light the candle of peace. Isaiah tells us, one of the names for the coming child will be "Prince of Peace." During this dark time of the year, as we endure the struggles of the season, as we journey toward the light, the Prince of Peace comes to bring us peace.

Isaiah said of the Coming One, "the son of the virgin would come to maturity in troublesome times." There's nothing new under the sun. We keep wishing for the good old days, forgetting the difficulties faced then. Jesus came during a time of occupation, the children of Israel were in their homeland, but they were not free, they did not live in peace. But they remembered the words of Isaiah, and held on to the fact the Coming One would be the Prince of Peace! What a day it would be.

We know the Christ Child came, born of a virgin during troublesome times, even His birth was not without logistical problems. After a long and difficult journey, without a place to stay, Mary gave birth in a stable, laying her babe *Away In A Manger*. There was no human announcement, instead *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, announcing His arrival. Those who heard the angel's song remembered Isaiah's promise, they needed peace, and chose to believe this babe WAS the Prince of Peace.

Today, as 2000 years ago, there is war, occupation, uprisings, bullies, worries, fears. Some live under a burden of taxes. Many fear the government in recording their every move and purchase. Our hearts cry out for peace. Christ is our peace. He came to establish peace between classes, tribes, countries, between humanity and Godself, between each other.

This Advent Season we look to God for the peace He gives to us in His Son, Jesus the Christ. We pray for peace between nations, peace with each other as we work for and await the peaceful Kingdom which is to come.

## **Please pray with me:**

Thank you, Lord, for this time of waiting. Remove our anxiety and our impatience and help us to hold on to the hope we have in Your coming to be with us. We thank You for Your presence and for the peace it gives to us. Continue to fill us with Your joy as we wait. You bless us with Your love and it keeps us secure as we await Your arrival. Thank You for the gift of Your Kingdom. May we focus on Your Son through this Season of Advent.

**Amen.**