

PEACE

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

*You will keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You,
Because he trusts in You.
Isaiah 26:3*

1. My personal definition of peace is **self** - centered.
2. The peace described by Isaiah is **God** - centered.
3. What is **perfect** peace? *shalom shalom*
agree/disagree God hangs on to the person who hangs on to Him.
4. God's peace provides **stability** and **security** .
5. Peace **with** God is a precursor to the peace **of** God
(Romans 5:1) (Philippians 4:7)
6. My peace **rises** or **falls** with my confidence in God.

*Now may the Lord of peace himself
give you peace at all times
and in every way.
The Lord be with all of you.
2 Thessalonians 3:16*

On Your Own (better with others)

- 1) READ this paragraph. Why is there no "peace on earth" today?
Therefore, "peace" is oftentimes defined as the condition of life that should be. But who has the right to determine what should or shouldn't be? If all of us could get the kind of peace we wanted, it would be an imposed peace. It would be peace at the expense of someone else's dream of what peace should be. Peace cannot be determined by our own biased viewpoints or selfish needs. (from <https://inheritmag.com/articles/what-is-shalom-the-true-meaning>)
- 2) Would others describe you as a someone who is at peace?
Do you think of yourself as someone who is at peace?
- 3) READ Isaiah 9:6-7. Jesus was the promised "Prince of Peace" but he lived with controversy and died a violent death. Why?
- 3) READ John 14:27 and 16:33. What courage does Jesus' peace offer a Christian living in Ukraine? Gaza? Sudan? Columbia?
- 4) The "God of peace" is referenced in Romans 15:33 and 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20. Choose one passage and comment on it.
- 5) READ Colossians 3:15. How can you let the "peace of Christ rule in your heart" this time of year? What is one thing to stop doing and one thing to start doing?

Pray for yourself (and somebody else) to know God's peace.