

PEACE - WEEK 2

Each week we will have a morning prayer to shape our days.

Pray it each day of the week and be aware to how God speaks to you during the day through your prayer. Journal the things you sense/hear/observe.

MORNING PRAYER:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

(Peace Prayer of St. Francis)

EVENING PRAYER:

Dear Lord, Teach me to trust in you so that when the unexpected storms of life come, I will expect Peace in the midst of those storms, knowing that you are near, you hear my cries, and you are with me and for me.

As you go through your day today, ask God to give you the opportunity to be an "instrument of Peace".

Peace is not the absence of conflict.

Peace is a result not a goal – our goal is to love.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR WEEK 2:

We will also share practices of reading and meditating and wrestling with scripture passages each week. These will tie into the coming Advent messages when we gather together on Sunday's. Take the time to read each passage out loud to yourself asking God to reveal what he is saying to you in them.

Consider the reflection questions and thoughts here and ask God to reveal to you what is needed to strengthen your heart and bring you to a place of praise and gratitude for Him.

READ: Isaiah 9:6-7

This passage is the prophecy of the coming Messiah (Jesus). The word for Peace in this passage is Shalom. **Shalom** is a Hebrew word meaning *peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, and welfare* and can be used to mean both *hello* and *goodbye*. What would the Prince of Peace look like to the Jews of that time? Do you see Jesus as the Prince of Peace in your life?

READ: John 14:27 & Matthew 5:9

These are words of Jesus. To Jesus a Jew, shalom meant Material Prosperity, Loving relationship with God, family, Israel and other nations and Moral goodness and integrity. At the core of Christian life is a life devoted to peacemaking. When you love and serve others, you bring peace into the world. What is the difference between being a peacemaker vs being a peacekeeper?

READ: Romans 15:13

What is the foundation of joy and peace?

Why is it hard to trust? What would help you to trust God more today?

READ: Luke 2:8-20

"Fear Not" or "Do not be afraid" seems to be a common theme in the Christmas story, so why do the angels declare this? In Luke 2:14, angels declare, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." How does God speak peace into people today? Where is God wanting to bring peace into your life?