



## Guiding Our Feet Into The Way of Peace

Luke 1:67-79

## Claiming True Peace

Keep your eyes on the prince of peace, the one who doesn't cling to his divine power; the one who refuses to turn stones into bread, jump from great heights, and rule with great power...;



the one who touches the lame, the crippled, and the blind, the one who speaks words of forgiveness and encouragement. ... Keep your eyes on him who becomes poor with the poor, weak with the weak. He is the source of all peace. Henri Nouwen

## The Benedictus

- Zechariah's song – "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel..."
- Linked to his experience in the temple with Gabriel (Luke 1:5-20)



## A Hymn of Praise

- Declaring the promises of God to Israel
- 7,000 promises to be encouraged by God in the Scriptures



## THE GIFT OF SALVATION

## God's Salvation

- 'Redeemed' (v68)
- 'A mighty Saviour' or 'a horn of salvation' (v69)
- 'Saved from our enemies' (v71)
- 'Knowledge of salvation' (v77)



## God Achieving His Purposes

- God's work in the past, present and future
- The birth of John sets up the work of Jesus – 'prepare his ways' (v70)
- The entire work of the Messiah

## Salvation in Our Darkness

- 'To give light to those who sit in darkness' (v79)
- Our confusion, doubts, anxieties, weakness, pain
- Live under the horizon of hope



## THE GIFT OF MERCY

## 'He Has Shown Mercy' (v72)

- Responds to Mary's Magnificat (v50)
- Mercy = God's hesed – compassion & grace; His loyal love



## God's Covenant

- God's mercy / God's promises
- God's dawn will shine on us (v78)
- God's love 'as certain as the dawn'



## 'Under The Shadow Of Death'

- God's mercy overcomes our fear of death (v79)
- God is greater than our fears
- At the heart of God is love/mercy not anger & punishment



## THE GIFT OF RELATIONSHIP



## 'We Stand Before God' (v75)

- We are in relationship with the living God
- We serve him (v74)



## God Reconciles Us

- Forgives our sins (v77)
- God does not bear grudges
- God forgives and loves us



## A God of Second-Chances

... that we should be saved from the hands of our enemies and in his *presence* should serve him *unafraid*, in holiness and righteousness all our lives.

Luke 1:74-75 (Phillips)



## THE GIFT OF PEACE



- God gives light to those in darkness (v79)
- Those who sit in shadows



## God Gives Peace

- 'To guide our feet into the way of peace' (v79b)
- Eirene = shalom – God's wholeness, harmony, fulfillment, unimpaired relationship
- God's peace – God's covenant

## Relationships Restored

- Relationships with others
- Relationships with the earth
- To be shalom-bearers to our world – bringing reconciliation to others



## Justice Re-established

- A compassionate society
- Addressing food issues, poverty issues, health issues, economic issues
- Hearing the prophetic call (Amos, Isaiah)



## Beauty Re-discovered

- God's hand in creation and beauty (Genesis 1)
- Beauty will be renewed (Romans 8:19-23)
- Beauty as a harbinger of God's kingdom (Philippians 4:8)



PURSUING THE PATH  
OF PEACE

## The Song of Benedictus – a Prayer

- Prayer is like water to a garden
- Keeps the garden alive



## The Song of Benedictus – Praise

- It is a message of worship
- A devotion to God
- The role of praise in our lives



## The Song of Benedictus – Presence

- A spirit-ual expression
- Speaking spirit to spirit – our spirit to God’s Spirit
- Enjoying our relationship with God this Advent

