

# God with Us

2020 Be in Christ Advent Devotional



December 20

## PEACEFUL GROW-OP

Aaron Holbrough, The Parish, Peterborough



Read *Luke 2:14*

Reflect I cannot be the only person who has struggled with the strange message that the angels declared on the first Christmas. The shepherds are working in the fields and a heavenly choir appears suddenly declaring, "Peace on Earth among people of good will". Peace on Earth? Did they have the right planet?

I even think the shepherds are intrigued by this seemingly paradoxical statement. The following verse records that they said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened". That thing they are referring to is not only the Saviour of the world, but peace on Earth! What they discovered is truly incredible. The Son of God had been growing in the womb of a peasant girl. Perhaps this is the key to understanding the peace that has also been promised. Mary reminds me that we don't just carry God's ideas - they grow inside us. Perhaps the same is true of this peace. The seed has been planted deep in our hearts. Jesus, thirty years later, will teach that those who let this seed grow into fruitful expression will also be called children of God. I have stopped praying for God's peace to come because the assumption is it isn't already here. Instead, I ask for it to grow and bear fruit.

Pray *Heavenly Father, your peace is here. Germinate that seed planted deep. As we love like Jesus, may we bear fruit to feed the world. Amen.*

## Discussion Questions

FOR WEEK FOUR, PEACE

1. What is your favourite gift you were ever given? Why?
2. What is your family tradition on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning?
3. Read December 20th refection written by Aaron Holbrough called *Peaceful Grow-Op*.
4. Read Luke 2:8-20. What stands out to you? What is one key idea, question or thought?
5. How have you experienced the ideas and values of Jesus take root in your life over the past year?
6. More specifically, where do you see the peace of God taking root, growing and bringing about change? How might you join in and participate in the work God is doing around us?
7. Spend some time praying together as a group.



BE IN CHRIST