

CITYWEST CHURCH

07.12.2025 - 10 AM

ADVENT 2 - PEACE

“SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE.”

Welcome to week 2 of Advent for 2025. December has ticked over, and Christmas Trees are up, and the shops are starting to feel a little bit busier.

Stef kicked us off with a sermon on Hope, and today up for us to look at Peace.

Now, if you have walked in today and you feel far from peace, I have two comforting truths for you: 1. You are not alone and in good company if you life and circumstances are a little chaotic, and 2. Peace is closer than you think.

for he grants sleep to those he loves.

Psalm 127:2b (NIV)

One of the tensions of Advent is this idea of now and not yet. We see the kingdom alive in our hearts and on Sundays, and as we gather with other believers, but it is not yet in the hearts of friends and family who do not yet know the Lord, sin does its work of us falling short and people put their ways over God's, and we can clearly see the not yet of our current world.

The encouragement for us today is that peace is available in both the now and the not yet. Christmas gives us the opportunity to remember and call to memory the birth of Jesus, our saviour, in the most interesting of circumstances.

Before we dive deep into the Christmas story and peace, let me share a quick passage from the life of Jesus that serves as a picture not just of what Jesus can do but who he is.

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” **36** So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). **37** But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

38 Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”

39 When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. **40** Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

41 The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

Mark 4:35-41 (NLT)

Now the disciples, some of them are expert sailors and this storm is even scaring them, which is saying something. The storm hits as it does in life, and the disciples are not able to handle it on their own.

They call on Jesus, and he is the most confusing thing imaginable; he is sleeping.

Not stressed, anxious, or frantic, but a living picture of the calm sleep in heavenly peace.

Jesus speaks to creation, and it listens. The storm is calmed, but from the disciples' response, Jesus brought peace to them also.

A few points for today, and circling back around to the Christmas story to encourage you today that peace is not perfect circumstances, but Jesus in the midst of both the Now and the Not yet.

1. PEACE IS ANNOUNCED INTO CHAOS.

Just like the storm, the first Christmas wasn't calm, well organised or social media ready.

8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. **9** Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, **10** but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **11** The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **12** And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

14

"Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Luke 2:8-14 (NLT)

*The shepherds weren't on retreat.
They were working the night shift.
In the dark.
Cold.
Tired.
Overlooked.
Ordinary people living in ordinary chaos.*

But this is where God chose to announce His peace.

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

The world wasn't peaceful when Isasiah wrote that; it was falling apart. Peace was spoken into the chaos.

God doesn't wait for perfect conditions; he speaks peace and announces it into the storms of life.

2. PEACE IS A GIFT THE WORLD CAN'T GIVE.

We can fall into the trap of thinking that peace will come when the calendar is free , the pressure lifts, the job settles the bills ease, and Christmas feels nice

But biblical peace isn't based on conditions.

The reason why is that the world, the not yet all around us, the striving, rushing, and pressure does not have the gift of peace to give.

Peace does not come from conditions; it comes from where your trust is.

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give

John 14:27 (NLT)

You can't purchase peace, schedule it, or manufacture it on your own.

Peace is a gift from Jesus, not your achievement.

The disciples in the boat before seeking Jesus tried harder and panicked more, but when they came to Jesus, the storm was calmed.

Stef mentioned this last week, but Hope is the only Advent theme that is not a fruit of the Spirit. We have to put our hope somewhere, and when we put our hope in God, peace, joy, and love come from him.

Gal 5:22-23, they are the fruits of the Spirit.

3. PEACE RULES WHERE CHRIST REIGNS.

Peace is not just a feeling; it's a governing force.

The LORD gives his people strength. The LORD blesses them with peace.

Psalm 29:11 (NLT)

God's peace comes with God's strength.

When God reigns, peace isn't fragile; it's foundational.

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Colossians 3:15 (NLT)

To "let peace rule" means peace calls the shots. Peace gets the final word.

Peace governs your reactions, your decisions, and your emotional climate.

In the storm, when Jesus stands and speaks, peace becomes the dominant reality in the conditions and the hearts of the disciples.

The storm no longer decides the atmosphere; Jesus does.

PEACE REIGNS WHERE CHRIST REIGNS.

Advent reminds us that the world was noisy the night Jesus was born.

Shepherds were working.

Mary and Joseph were exhausted.

The town was crowded.

Life was messy.

And yet

Heavenly peace broke in.

***Just like Jesus slept in the storm,
and just like the angels declared peace in the dark,
He whispers to your restless heart today:***

"Peace. Be still."

