

# “Participate in Peace”

Harvest Vineyard Christian Fellowship

December 10, 2017

(Second Sunday of Advent)

A key feature of Advent is the waiting and anticipation.

The second Sunday in Advent calls us to anticipate the gift of **peace** that appears with the arrival of Jesus.

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### **Shalom:**

- Ceasing of hostilities, Rest, Provision, Protection

# Isaiah the 'Advent Prophet'

# Isaiah 9:2, 4, 6-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
on them light has shined.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

# Isaiah 9:2, 4, 6-7

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Are you in exile?



# Are you in exile?

Removed far from peace and into a wilderness :

- Significant hostilities in our relationships
- Enslaved to harmful patterns, to sin
- Scarcity / lack of provision / slave to debt
- Grief or fear
- Insecurity in identity and purpose, sense of belonging
- No rest



# Isaiah 29:13

“These people draw near with their mouths  
and honor me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me,  
and their worship of me  
is a human commandment learned by rote [habit].”

# Luke 3:2-6

“The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

# Mathew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

<sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Often before we can find *peace*,  
we first need to be *disturbed*.

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we first need to be *disturbed*.

We anticipate what God is about to do,  
but *the waiting is not passive*.

Be prepared!

Participate in peace while we anticipate peace.



# Colossians 1:19-20

“<sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”

# Passing of the Peace

“The peace of the Lord be with you”

“And also with you.”



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