

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20 2020

### Children's message:

This morning I thought we could focus and look at the Angels in the story of Jesus's birth. The word angel means messenger and God uses them to bring messages and news to us here on earth. The angels brought the important message to the shepherds that the Messiah, the Prince of Peace is born. The angels told the shepherds where they would find the infant Jesus. That all people should rejoice and celebrate this great news. The angel's message and directions were very accurate so that the shepherds had no problem finding the Baby Jesus and His family. We too rejoice in the angel's message two thousand years later. Their message would be the start of our story of salvation. This was a birth announcement that would change the world and how we understand God and our relationship with Him.

### Adult's message:

This Sunday we would normally light the final candle of our Advent wreath. This candle represents peace. We are to reflect on peace and how the infant that will arrive in a few days was hailed as the Prince of Peace. The Prophet Isaiah was blessed by God to see so much about Our Lords coming.

With God things are never as we expect them or anticipate them. God always seems to far exceed our expectations. The coming of the Prince

of Peace should be no different. When Jesus spoke of peace during His ministry it was not expressed as a peace between two nations. When Our Lord spoke of peace it was always individual and personal. It is a beautiful way of saying that peace starts first with you and I. Peace is an inward state. It is similar to a calm heart or inner being that is rooted in faith. Ephesians 2:4, "For He Himself is our peace." This does not mean that trials and temptations won't come our way. Just that when they do we are better able to deal with them. With a peaceful calm.

We are called by God to peace. St. Paul tells us as much in 1 Cor 7:15, "God has called us to peace." We are called to peace through the ministry of Jesus and by following His message and teachings. The peace that He gives is a very different from the one the world gives. Jesus's peace is an attitude, a way of life and a vehicle to draw closer to God. John 14:17, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you: not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." Jesus's peace is a divine, heavenly peace because it comes from the Son of God. This peace lasts longer in the heart of the believer than earthly peace that is fleeting. Jesus's peace drives the fear out of the heart of the believer. John 16:33, "That in Me you may have peace".

During this Advent and what remains of it, pray for the peace that Jesus brings and gives to His children. So that our hearts and person may be calm, peaceable and without fear. This time of year is trying at the best of times. This whole year was a trying test of one's inward peace. IN the midst of it all, take some time and refocus and recenter, breath deep and pray for peace. Start with yourself and then spread it to those around you. Trust in the Prince of Peace. He has everything

under control. He is still in charge. Find your comfort and peace there and let fear dissolve. I pray for your peace and may the Prince of Peace continue to bless you, Pastor D.