

Advent – In the Waiting...Peace

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Isaiah 40:1-11

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Waiting is made difficult because our inner voices create chaos

That voice blames everything on people and circumstances around us.

*When was a time recently that you felt your peace had been kicked around?

*How has your inner voice blamed others or circumstances? How have you blamed God for the lack of peace?

Isaiah shares a roadmap to PEACE

And words from Paul help us to learn to quiet that inner voice

Read and discuss Isaiah 40:1-11 (NIV)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of
the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be
revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand
forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

*What does this passage tell us about God? About people?

*What does this passage tell us about waiting and weariness, our condition, our PEACE?

Read and discuss Philippians 4:6-8(NIV)

⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

*What does this passage tell us about God? About people?

*How can this passage help us address our internal voice?

*How can these two passages work in tandem to help us wait with PEACE?

Jesus didn't come to us just to change our hard circumstances

He came to walk with us in them and form in us a steady, trusting, peaceful voice.

*Where have you been waiting for God to show up and change the circumstances?

*How could you begin replacing fear and doubt with the loveliness, faithfulness and trustworthiness of God?

*What is God saying to you about cultivating PEACE in this particular season?

Join us as we celebrate Advent together

[Advent Experience 2020](#)

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [At Peace in the Storm](#) by Annie Mae Payne

Song for reflection [O Day of Peace](#) by Josh Garrels

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.