

Each week of this Advent season, we will provide this bulletin insert that has each week's Sunday morning Advent Candle reading along with some family discussion/reflection questions for you & your family...

## Second Week of Advent - Peace

### Second Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**First Reader:** This is the second Sunday in Advent. Today, we light two purple candles. Last Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. This Sunday, we light the candle of peace. Our world is not always a peaceful world. People hurt other people. Countries are at war today. People don't take care of the world. People yell and scream at other people. But God promises peace. During Advent, we pray that we, as well as all people, will seek God's peace.

(Light the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> purple candles... the "9:00" & "12:00" candles)

**Second Reader:** When we look at the second candle, we remember God's promise of peace. We recall the words of Jesus in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." In times of war and hatred, it's hard to remember that Jesus is the one who brings peace. As we approach Christmas, let's remember that God's intention is a place of peace where people shake hands instead of harm one another.

**First Reader:** Read Luke 2:8-14.

**Second Reader:** The shepherds may have not felt very peaceful when they heard the words of the angel. They were probably scared and confused. Yet they followed those words, trusting in God. Sometimes all we see around us gives a different message from the message of peace. Yet we, like the shepherds, can follow God's words and trust in God's promises.

#### Prayer:

Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for those in our world today who seek to act for peace. Help us look for ways to be peacemakers at home, at church and at school. AMEN.

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#### Sunday's Family Discussion:

This Scripture reminds us that when we are fearful, we are often not thinking of peace. The angels calm the shepherds and send them forward with a task. Who are the people in our world who need God's peace?

- What are our hopes for peace in our world today?
- How do we help others know God's desire for peace in our world?

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**Monday, December 7** - Today, try a new greeting to those you see in your home, or at work, or as you shop. Say, "Christmas Peace to you." At the end of the day, when you pray, thank God for each person you saw this day and pray that each person will experience the peace of God.

**Tuesday, December 8** - Spend time today thinking about your image of a world at peace. Write your thoughts, or create a picture depicting God's peace in the world.

**Wednesday December 9** - Peace seems so difficult for us to achieve in our world. Read again Luke 2:1-20. Think about what peace would look like in your family, in your congregation, in your community, in our nation, and in the world. Pray a prayer of peace asking God for what you have envisioned for your family, your congregation, your community, your nation, and the world.

**Thursday, December 10** - Whenever we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we sometimes get very busy. In the aftermath of the Christmas season... today, take a ten-minute break. Sit quietly. If it helps you to concentrate, look at your Advent wreath. Pray, asking God's help to bring quiet and calm to a busy world.

**Friday, December 11** - Take time to do an act of service today for someone in your home or someone in your community. You might want to make cookies for your postal carrier or take a Christmas card to your neighborhood bank. Perhaps you can call those who work at your church and offer thanks for their service. How does showing we appreciate the service of others bring peace? What acts of peace can you do this day?

