

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Advent is the season of peace.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Isaiah 11:1-10	The peaceful kingdom
Tuesday	Romans 15:4-13	Good news for Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Thursday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's people will celebrate
Friday	2 Thessalonians 3:16	Final greeting of peace
Saturday	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	A prayer for guidance for the king
Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. **Isaiah 11:6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, you who bring peace and hope to the world, guide our steps to walk in your peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for this food. May this gift of love strengthen us to live lives of hope and peace through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)



HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Come Now, O Prince
of Peace*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you are concerned about or that worries you?
- What is something you see in the world around you that gives you a sense of peace?
- Jesus comes to bring peace. How do you experience the peace that Jesus brings?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 3:1-12.

In the Bible the wilderness is a place of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. With John the Baptist, something most dramatic is happening in the wilderness: preparing for the coming of Jesus into our world and lives, the ultimate experience of repentance, cleansing, and renewal. John sounds harsh with words of judgment, not peace and hope. However, God's work of judgment is its own act of preparation that we may be made new. God's judgment condemns sin, death, and evil so that they may be destroyed. That is our great hope. Name places and situations in our world today where we gladly let the life of sin and death be swallowed up in forgiveness and peace.

Pray: Lord Jesus, come into our lives and put an end to all that is within us that is not part of your kingdom of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

SERVICE

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 3:2). The word repent in Greek means to change one's mind or purpose. John the Baptist wanted people to repent and live a life that "bears fruit" (v. 8). Leading a Christian life means being fruitful and bearing good fruit. Think about what this means. In what ways can people tell that you are a bearer of good fruit?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week we light two candles on the Advent wreath in our homes. They are the candles of Hope and Peace. Today's candle reflects the peaceful kingdom.

Say: This is the second week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope and Peace. [Light two candles]

Read: The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

Respond: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives peace.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope and peace. Amen.