

A Prayerful Reflection - (2nd Sunday in Advent)

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn – CMP 41

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess Him
King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call Him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Isaiah C11:1-10

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— ³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips, he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb; the leopard will lie down with the goat the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Verse 2 'The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him....' The Messiah would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to establish God's kingdom,.. Wisdom and Understanding. The ministries of the Holy Spirit are listed,.. a Spirit of wisdom,.. understanding,..counsel,.. might,.. knowledge and fear. The Messiah will embody all this; He will be the ideal King.

Verses 4 'but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips, he will slay the wicked'. Isaiah anticipated a time when Christ would completely right all wrongs. While on earth Christ began to establish justice by what he said and taught. His written word continues to bring justice today wherever it is obeyed. When Christ returns the second time justice, peace and righteousness will be completely restored.

Verses 6-9 'a little child will lead them...' In the coming kingdom, a youngster will be able to lead formerly wild animals. This is a way of emphasizing the complete peace in the coming kingdom.

Prayer – Lord God, we thank You for the wonderful prophecies of Isaiah and the hope we all have in Christ. Thank You that the day is coming when Your people will be fully and finally regathered back to the land You promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their seed forever. **AMEN.**

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray.

Holy God, we look for you, we long for you. Let us see that you come among us, make us aware of your presence and grant us a glimpse of your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **AMEN**

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks for all who have told us of your love and your presence among us. We give thanks for John the Baptist preparing the way for our Lord and Saviour. We give thanks for the Apostles and Evangelists. Heavenly Father, guide and empower all preachers of the Word and ministers of the sacraments.

Blessed Lord, hear us – **and set your people free.**

Lord of love, we pray for all who are consumed with hatred, all who do not know how to accept or receive forgiveness, all who are not at peace with themselves or the world. We remember all who are anxious and fearful at this time.

Blessed Lord, hear us – **and set your people free.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for peace in the world. Heal the divisions and conflicts that separate us and let Your love bring reconciliation and understanding.

- Lord, in the midst of our busy lives, grant us the peace that surpasses all understanding. Help us to find calm and rest in Your presence.
- Almighty God, fill our hearts with inner peace. Help us to release our worries and trust in Your divine plan.

Advent is a season of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy in the Christmas child. We pray for the love that comes from you Lord God, a love that is unconditional, unstoppable, and unending. Help us to share this love with others, to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving. May the peace of the Christmas child fill our hearts that we may be a blessing to those we love and our neighbours.

Finally,....take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for families, friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time. For those who have lost a loved one. We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. Lord, comfort and help those in need we pray.

Pray the LORD'S Prayer

Peace

*Know in your life the love of God, the forgiveness of sins and
The joy of salvation.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

A prayer of blessing

*The love and light of God scatter the darkness from before you
and guide your feet into the way of peace.*

AMEN