

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 6, 2020



Family Advent Evening Prayer

Gather your family on Saturday evening (Dec. 5) or Sunday evening for this Advent Evening prayer.

If you have made an Advent wreath with its four candles, then gather around the wreath. If you can lower the lighting in the room, do so, but make sure you can still read the prayer.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. *(repeat)*

Parent: Faithful God,
you promise a new world,
where all people are forgiving and kind.
We ask you: may your Spirit of peace dwell in our home.
In Jesus's name we pray.

All: Amen.

A parent lights the first and second purple candles of the Advent wreath. If candles are made from paper, then a child can place paper "flames" on the first and second purple "candles".

Reading: *Read by a parent or a child.*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On that day, the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
the calf and the young lion shall browse together,
and a little child shall guide them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall rest together;
and the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play over the hole of cobra's nest,
and the toddler shall put its hand on the adder's lair.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A parent shares the following reflection.

Parent: What is the best thing you have heard lately? (Allow children and adults to share). Isn't it wonderful when we hear good news? It lifts our hearts. Good news makes us happy. Sometimes it helps us to breathe a sigh of relief.

In today's reading, we have a promise from God that is good news! Can you remember some of the strange, amazing things that were described in Isaiah's prophecy? (Allow responses. Use hints if necessary.) Animals that normally fight with each other, or eat each other, or are dangerous, suddenly like each other. They become friends. They do not hurt each other. The most ferocious become gentle and peaceful. And all people throughout the world know God's kindness. This is good news: God gave us a promise of what the Kingdom of God is like. It is a Kingdom filled with peace.

During Advent, we remember that Jesus is the promise of God. Jesus is THE Good News. He came into the world as the Prince of Peace. He showed us ways to belong to this Kingdom of God. What are some ways that we can show we belong to the Kingdom of God? (Allow for sharing.) At Advent, we remember that we need to be peaceful, forgiving, gentle and kind to one another because we are brothers and sisters of Jesus and we belong to the Kingdom of God.

A child reads the Prayer Response:

Child: Jesus, you are our peace even where there is hatred.
Help us to forgive like you when we are hurt,
and to ask for forgiveness if we hurt another person.
Bring peace into our hearts
and help us to bring peace to others
through our words and actions,
as we await your coming. Amen.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. *(repeat)*

Credits: Scripture Reading, Isaiah 11:6-10 simplified.
Child's Prayer Response from: lords-prayer-words.com
Family Advent Evening Prayer by Gregory Beath, 2020