

Joy, Peace and Hope
Elizabeth Presbyterian Church – December 7, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10 The Righteous Reign of the Branch

- 1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- 9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- 10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!
- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
- 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!
- 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

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5 May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

7 In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!
Amen and Amen!

Romans 15:4-13

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

10 And again it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

12 And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

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

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Matthew 3:1-12 John the Baptist Prepares the Way

- 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of
one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths
straight.’”
- 4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and
his food was locusts and wild honey.
- 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to
him,
- 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he
said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to
come?
- 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.
- 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell
you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.
- 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not
bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is
mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit and fire.
- 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather
his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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Opening

We are in the season of Advent – the celebration of the coming to earth of the Son of God – Jesus himself (God among us)

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

For preachers we know what we will be talking about.

Last week was Hope, This week Peace, next week Joy

However, it is not that easy as these subjects are “hopelessly intermingled”

What can I say about “Peace”

The holidays are probably the most stressful and least peaceful time of the year.

Shopping, Family gatherings, decorating, special events, etc. How do we cope with all the additional demands on our time? Or the opposite?

We want Peace, but what kind of Peace?

Let’s look at today’s scriptures

Isaiah 11:1-10

(Paraphrase as needed)

Isaiah after having predicted the coming destruction of Judah by the Assyrians gives us this picture of the future kingdom.

Rising from the remnants of the line of David (stump) a new kingdom. The knowledge of the Lord will be everywhere, Righteousness, Justice, Fairness, Faith will be the norm.

The creation will be at peace (no strife) (Garden of Eden)

A return to the way things were intended.

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

A Psalm written by Solomon

(Paraphrase as needed)

A description of the perfect king

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Romans 15:4-13

(Paraphrase as needed)

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

Matthew 3:1-12 John the Baptist Prepares the Way

John the Baptist knowing the prophecies of Isaiah and the Psalms is preparing the people for the Coming of the Messiah (Advent)

We want Peace, but what kind of Peace? No Strife (Isaiah), Justice (Psalm), The Peace from God (Romans)

Peace from God – Passing of the Peace

(describe two types)

Both are something more than an exchange of words!

Taking our cue from Romans let's look at other scripture.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Philippians 4:7, 9 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.