

NAMES OF JESUS
Prince of Peace
Advent Worship Series – Week 4
December 21, 2008

WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin.

Announcements and Offering

“...and His Name shall be called...Prince of Peace”

Call to Worship:

Who hasn't longed for peace, living in a world that is so often full of strife? The Hebrew word for peace, however, means much more than the absence of conflict or the end of turmoil. *Shalom* conveys not only a sense of tranquility but also of wholeness and completion. To enjoy *shalom* is to enjoy health, satisfaction, success, safety, well-being, and prosperity. Though the New Testament does not directly call Jesus the Prince of Peace, this title from Isaiah has traditionally been associated with him as the One who brings peace to the world. Furthermore, Paul assured the Ephesian Christians saying of Jesus, “He himself is our peace” (Ephesians 2:14).

(Praying the Names of Jesus, page 106)

Advent Candle Lighting:

Solo 1: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Solo 2: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.

Solo 1: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Solo 2: The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:2-7, NIV)

[Light 4th Advent candle.]

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| SB#108 – Hark! The herald angels sing | TB-270 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | HTD4-T5 (3 vs.) |
| Additional Optional Songs | | |
| SB#100 – Angels, from the realms of glory | TB-398 – Come and Worship (Regent Sq.) | HTD4-T12 (4 vs.) |
| SB#114 – Light of the world | TB-653 – Here I am to Worship | |
| HC#146 – Here I am to Worship | HC-146 | HCD13-T16 |
| HC#141 – All Hail the Power | HC-141 | HCD13 –T11 |

Hallowed Be Thy Name

Responsive Scripture:

Leader: The name “Prince of Peace” is the Hebrew *Shar Shalom*, which means “the one who removes all peace-disturbing factors and secures the peace.” It helps to explain why Jesus disappointed His countrymen when He came! They did not want a peaceful prince. They wanted the Roman rulers taken away and all their oppressors with them. But Jesus didn’t lift a finger against Rome. He didn’t make one international peace treaty. How can He then be considered the Prince of Peace? Notice two very different statements from the New Testament. Luke 2:14 states,

All: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”*

Leader: But in Matthew 10:34, Jesus said,

All: *“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”*

Leader: How can these two statements be reconciled? Can we blame Jesus’ countrymen for rejecting the Prince of Peace if our own world is still engulfed in conflict as we move into the third millennium? The first phase of Messiah’s coming produced a peace unknown to man since the fall of Adam into sin. It is rooted in the saving mission carried out by Christ on our behalf. Paul wrote:

All: *“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”* (2 Corinthians 5:19)

Leader: This means that the peace Jesus brought is more than a negotiated ceasefire between ourselves and God. It is a peace that changes us from enemies into the children of God. So significant was the **power** of the Son of God that He was able to bring calm to the natural storms on the turbulent Sea of Galilee.

All: *“He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.”* (Mark 4:39)

Leader: So effective is His work on the **cross** that it is able to make peace between God and man.

All: *“For God was pleased...through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you.”* (Colossians 1:19-22a)

Leader: The **good news** of salvation in Christ is acknowledged as the root of peace in the hearts of the redeemed.

All: *“The message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.”* (Acts 10:36)

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| Drama: Prince of Peace |
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Responsive Scripture continued:

Leader: Though Judaism separated Jews and Gentiles, Christ has not only reconciled God and man, He has reconciled Jew and Gentile so that we are now **one body** in Christ.

All: *“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”* (Ephesians 2:14)

Leader: What is the importance of the name “Prince of Peace” to the believer today? Those who trust Christ as their Mediator and Savior are given by God an assurance that flows out of a right relationship with Him. Once we are in Christ, the Prince of Peace shows us that He can bring peace wherever He rules. He can bring **peace in life’s trials**.

All: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”* (John 14:27)

Leader: **Peace in life’s maturing process.**

All: *“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Leader: **Peace in life’s victories.**

All: *“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”* (Romans 16:20)

Leader: **Peace in life’s relationships.**

All: *“Keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* (Ephesians 4:3)

Leader: What a treasure is ours in Isaiah’s predicted Messiah. He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. May we give Him worship, as we ponder the great God that He is!
(A Comforting Name: “Prince of Peace” from *“Our Daily Bread,” Christmas Edition, 2007*)

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| SB#111 – It came upon the midnight clear | TB-133 – same | HTD9-T7 |
| Additional Optional Songs | | |
| SB#118 – O little town of Bethlehem | TB-136 – same | HTD3-T5 (3 vs.) Bethlehem |
| SB#124 – Silent night! Holy night! | TB-842 – Stille Nacht | HTD4-T15 (3 vs.) |
| SB#132 – While shepherds watched their flocks by night | TB-125 – Winchester Old TB-123 – same | HTD11- 15 (4 vs.) |
| HC#169 – Hallelujah | HC-169 | HCD15-T19 |
| HC#176 – Holy is the Lord | HC-176 | HCD16-T16 |
| HC#186 – When I look into your holiness | HC-186 | HCD17-T16 |
| HC#187 – Jesus, Messiah | HC-187 | HCD17-T17 |
| HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty | HC-219 | HCD20-T19 |
| HC#220 – Incarnate | HC-220 | HCD20-T20 |
| HC#226 – I Worship You | HC-226 | HCD21-T16 |

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| HC#176 – Holy is the Lord | HC-176 | HCD16-T16 |
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Prayer:

Jesus, my life was in chaos until you entered it. Thank you for the forgiveness that brought me peace. Deepen my sense of your presence by keeping me close to you. Teach me to become a peacemaker—loving justice, doing right, and leading others along the path of peace.

(Praying the Names of Jesus, page 108)

Message – Our Prince of Peace

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| HC#120 – In the Manger | HC-120 | HCD10-T20 |
| Additional Optional Songs | | |
| HC#169 - Hallelujah | HC-169 | HCD15-T19 |
| SB#86 – O little town of Bethlehem | TB-156 – same | HTD3-T5 (3 vs.) |

Benediction:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.
(Philippians 4:4-7)

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| HC#180 – Starry Night | HC-180 | HCD16-T20 |
| Vocal Benediction Options | | |
| HC#140 – O Come, All Ye Faithful | HC-140 | HCD12-T20 |
| SB#106 – Go, tell it on the mountain, | TB-631 – same | HTD11-T4 (2 vs., start with chorus) |
| HC260 – Go, tell it on the mountain | HC-260 | HCD24-T20 |

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| Week # 4 | |
| DRAMA | |
| Prince of Peace | |
| By Martyn Scott Thomas | |
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| Topic: | God, Peace |
| Scripture: | Mark 4:35-41 |
| Synopsis: | A disciple recounts his version of Jesus calming the storm at sea. |
| Characters: | Peter – one of Jesus’ disciples. |
| Props/Costumes: | Modern or Biblical dress. A life jacket. |
| Setting: | Bare stage. Actor may want to wet his hair and clothes to portray someone who has been soaked. |
| Running Time: | 3 minutes. |

Peter: You’re probably wondering about this life jacket. You see, there was a time when I thought I needed it. In fact I would’ve sold my mother to get one. But, when you think your boat is going to sink, you have all sorts of desperate thoughts.

Now, I’ve been around the sea most of my life. At times, I’ve even made my living along the seashore and on the water. I definitely have sea legs. And I’ve been through plenty of storms before. The worst ones are the ones that sneak up without warning. One moment you’re sailing on a calm sea with a nice gentle breeze. Then the breeze picks up, the waves grow larger and the sky turns black. And once the rain starts, it’s too late to do anything except tie yourself down and hope you can ride it out.

Well, we hit one of those storms. Better yet, one of those storms hit us – out of the blue. We were totally unprepared and helpless. The waves were higher than any I’d ever seen. The winds were so fierce, they ripped right through us. Water poured over the sides of our little boat faster than we could bail it out. And wouldn’t you know it, not one life jacket on board. So, we tied ourselves down and hoped that somehow we’d survive.

Funny, it all came on us so fast that we’d forgotten about Jesus. He was still pretty new at this sailing stuff. He must be scared out of his mind. In a panic, we looked around and saw no sign of him. Surely, he had already been thrown overboard. But then we heard snoring. I’m not sure how we heard it over the wind, but it definitely was snoring. There in the stern of the boat, in the middle of the wind and rain and waves, Jesus was sleeping; soundly.

We fixed that right away. “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re drowning?” Okay, so maybe the question wasn’t asked so calmly. But, we did get his attention. And then he got ours.

“Peace, be still.” Was he talking to the wind and the waves or was he talking to us? “Peace, be still.”

Not even a shout or an urgent prayer to his Father. “Peace, be still.” And the wind and the waves and the rain stopped. Immediately.

Who is this man, we thought? Even the wind and the rain listen to his voice. We had a lot to learn. And he had a lot to teach. That day, Jesus brought peace to a troubled sea. Ever since then he has been bringing peace to troubled lives.

This life jacket? I don’t think I’ll need it anymore. Not as long as I keep my eyes on Jesus. I mean, it’s not like he’s going to ask me to walk on the water anytime soon, right?

[Blackout]

NAMES OF JESUS
Advent Sermon – Week 4
December 21, 2008

Our Prince of Peace
by Tom Shepard

Text: Isaiah 9:6

A few weeks ago we started a series of sermons based on Isaiah chapter nine, verse six. Let's go ahead and read our focal passage at this time.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**" (Isaiah 9:6, NIV).*

This prophecy tells us that a child will be born. The child will be unique—the child will be special. The child will be the one we know as Jesus. According to Isaiah chapter nine, he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God
Everlasting Father
The Prince of Peace

Today we will look at Jesus as being our "Prince of Peace."

We live in a world where there seems to be very little peace, don't we? I remember growing up hearing stories and watching movies about World War II. My father and uncles would tell tall tales about serving in the military. Even then, the "Cold War" was raging and we talked about our communist enemies and the threat of nuclear warfare. One of my teachers was a Korean War veteran. In my teen years, Vietnam took the center stage. The draft came to an end in my senior year of high school. After Vietnam, other smaller conflicts came and went. In 1991 we sent our troops to the Middle East to conduct an operation known as "Desert Storm." I deployed as a chaplain for that operation. Other countries of the world would call it the Persian Gulf War. On September 11, 2001, our country was attacked by terrorists. Today we are involved in a conflict known as, "The War on Terrorism." We currently have our military stationed throughout the world but most notably in Iraq and Afghanistan. War and conflict seem to be the natural course of this world. Even Jesus said:

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:6-7, NKJV).

Can you imagine what it would be like to live in a world without war, fighting,

arguments, or disputes of any kind? None of us can really fathom what a world like that would be. Why? Because we have never experienced it or even anything close to it! People throughout the centuries have talked about peace, but few—if any—have ever had an actual plan to bring peace to the world. But God has a plan. God has sent us a Prince of Peace.

Here in America the term peace has been clearly connected with the absence of war. If there is no war, there is peace. However, the word that is used in the Old Testament for peace is “shalom,” and it means so much more than the absence of conflict. Shalom is used to describe the end of hostilities, but the word itself also pictures health and wholeness. It denotes harmony and completeness. To have shalom is to have not only a quiet life, but also to have a fulfilled life in every way.

When you have shalom there is no feeling of harm or hurt. When you have shalom you are in a state of ease and safety. There is no fear whatsoever. There is no worry. There is a sense of harmony and oneness. You know your purpose and you have a sense of wholeness and completeness. Everything is exactly the way it should be. Nothing is out of order. Your inner world as well as the outer world is in harmony. This is shalom; this is the peace that Jesus brings, for He is our Prince of Peace.

Today let’s look at two basic areas that Jesus brings peace into our lives. The first is:

I. Jesus brings peace between me and GOD.

Someone has said, “It is not possible to have the Peace *of* God without Peace *with* God.”

It all starts right here. Each of us, because of the sin in our lives, has a problem with God. Our sin has separated us from God. When we sin, we do things he does not like. He wants us to follow his rules. He wants us to do the things he has asked us to do, and when we disobey, we create a barrier between us and him.

The Bible says that we deserve punishment for our sin. In the Bible we are told that “[God] does not leave the guilty unpunished” (Exodus 34:7). In fact, the Bible often refers to us in our lost and sinful condition as the “enemies of God” (Romans 5:10). Our sin separates us from God. Before we can have peace with God, something must be done about the sin in our lives.

Guess what – something has been done!

God sent a Prince of Peace to deal with the situation. He sent a Prince of Peace to fix the problem. He sent a Prince of Peace to give us peace with God. How did he do that? Look at Romans chapter six with me:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23, NIV).

Go ahead and circle the word “wages” in your Bible. The word “wages” means that which you have earned. When you work on a job you earn wages. It’s your pay. It’s what you deserve. The same is true about sin. When you sin, you deserve death. That is what you have earned. That is what you deserve.

Now go ahead and circle the word “but.” “But” is the biggest word in the English language. “*But* the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We deserved death. We earned punishment. “But” God did something about it. “But” God fixed the situation. He sent our Prince of Peace to take our punishment. Somebody had to do something about it, and God did.

Here is a fact: God does not IGNORE sin. He never has and he never will.

“The wages of sin is death.” Sin must be paid for. Sin must be punished. That’s what the cross of Christ is all about. Jesus went to the cross to take our punishment. Jesus went to the cross to take our place. He paid for our sin. He received the wages that we were due. He took the punishment that we deserved.

In the Old Testament, men made sacrifice after sacrifice, hoping to pay for their sin. They hoped to somehow fix the broken relationship that they had with God. You see, sin had to be paid for. God does not ignore sin. Sin must be punished. But God had a solution. He sent a Prince of Peace to die for our sins because the wages of sin is death. Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Look at what it says in Hebrews, chapter nine:

“He sacrificed himself once and for all, summing up all the other sacrifices in this sacrifice of himself, the final solution of sin” (Hebrews 9:26, MSG).

He sacrificed himself for our sin problem. We can now have peace with God because of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus is God’s gift to us. We were at war with God because of our sin. But Jesus—our Prince of Peace—gives us peace with God. He fixed the problem. He took the wages of sin to the cross so that we can have peace with God. But that’s not all.

II. Jesus brings peace within MYSELF.

Look at this verse from Matthew chapter six with me:

“Look at the birds of the sky: they don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they?” (Matthew 6:26, HCSB).

How much are you worth? What is your value? Jesus tells us that we are worth *more* than the birds of the air. Later in Matthew, Jesus says:

“But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Don’t be afraid therefore; you are worth more than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:30-31, HCSB).

Folks, the point is that God sees you as valuable. Here is a fact that many of us have heard: God don’t make no junk!

Now I know you English students in the congregation are cringing in your seats because this is improper English, but the statement is true. God doesn’t make any junk. That which God touches is holy and pure. He takes that which is bent and straightens it out. He takes that which is dirty and cleans it up. He takes that which is broken and fixes it. If you are a believer in Christ—if you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior—God looks on you as if you are holy and pure. Look at what it says in 1 Peter, chapter two:

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10, NIV).

If you need to change your self image, or if you need to build up your self esteem, read this passage daily. In Christ you are a chosen race, you are a holy nation, you are a royal priesthood, and you are a people for his possession. That is how valuable God sees you.

Our Prince of Peace has come so that we can have peace within ourselves, so your self-image can be changed, and so you can see that you have value in God’s kingdom.

Robert Reed understands this. He has said, “I have everything I need for joy! Amazing!”

Most of you have probably never heard of Robert Reed. He’s not some movie star or some great athlete. He graduated from Abilene Christian University in Texas with a degree in Latin. He taught at a junior college in St. Louis and even ventured overseas on five mission trips before moving to Lisbon, Portugal, as a missionary in 1972. He rented a hotel room and began studying Portuguese. He found a restaurant owner who would feed him—because he could not feed himself.

You see, Robert’s hands are twisted and his feet are useless. He can’t bathe himself. He can’t brush his own teeth. He can’t put on his own underwear. His shirts are held together by strips of Velcro. His speech drags like a worn out audio cassette. He can’t drive a car. He can’t ride a bike. He can’t even go for walk. Robert has cerebral palsy. But that did not keep him from becoming a missionary to Portugal.

Robert would go daily to the park. He would station himself there, and with his twisted hands he would pass out brochures about Jesus. Within six years he helped 70 people find the Lord—one of which who became his wife, Rosa.

Robert could have been bitter because of his disease, but he wasn't. Robert could have asked for pity, but he didn't. Robert could have a really bad self-image, but he doesn't. Robert has just the opposite. He holds his bent and twisted hands in the air and yells, "I have everything I need for joy! Amazing!" Robert can do that because he knows that he has value in God's kingdom. Robert can do that because he has met the Prince of Peace—Jesus Christ.*

"But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted" (1 Peter 2:9, MSG).

We have a Prince of Peace, and his name is Jesus Christ. He has come to give us peace with God and he comes to give us peace within ourselves. How about you? Have you ever asked him to come into your heart—into your life—so that he can give you peace?

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**" (Isaiah 9:6, NIV).*

*Story of Robert Reed adopted from Brain Harrell

