

Advent 2020 Week One:
Finding Peace in Our Struggles
Sunday, December 6, 2020

“Today is the 2nd Sunday of Advent. The Advent season comprises the four weeks before Christmas. It is an old tradition dating at least as far back as the 400’s when the early church observed a period of preparation leading up to Christmas. Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts and our minds for the coming of God’s Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. The word “Advent” means “to come,” and the Advent season focuses on remembering Christ’s first coming at Christmas and then also anticipating Christ’s second coming and soon return”. (Ray Fowler)

This Advent season we will be sharing a series of messages exploring the various themes represented by the five candles. The Key Concepts are HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, and the fifth candle is the Christ Candle that brings all the previous 4 together into ONE.

This year our Advent theme is...
(adapted from Outreach.com 2020 Advent Theme)

Rediscovering Thankfulness This Christmas Season

Week 1: Finding Hope in Our Uncertainties

Week 2: Finding Peace in Our Struggles

Week 3: Finding Joy in Our Discouragements

Week 4: Finding Love in Our Differences

Week 5: Finding Christ in Our World

I want to introduce you to a song that will be used each week of this series each week that reinforces the theme. (It is an adaption from the song “My Heart is Filled With Thankfulness. Words and music by Keith Getty/Stuart Townend. 2003 ThankYou Music.)

This week I will sing all the verses as an intro, but the words will be on the screen and you are welcome to join me as I sing each verse as it is simple and designed to be sung congregationally.

MY HEART IS FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

Week 1: HOPE

My heart is filled with thankfulness To Christ Who brings me **HOPE**
In all of life’s uncertainties, His promises are sure.
In Christ I find the strength to wait, and pow’r to stay the course;
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace

Week 2: PEACE

My heart is filled with thankfulness To Christ Who Brings me **PEACE**
In all our struggles gives us strength and causes fears to fly.
Whose ev’ry promise is enough for ev’ry step I take;
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace

Week 3: JOY

My heart is filled with thankfulness To Christ Who Brings me **JOY**
In all of my discouragements, His presence is enough.
I celebrate the blessed Christ, and know for sure He is,
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

Week 4: LOVE

My heart is filled with thankfulness To Christ Who Brings me **LOVE**
Whose presence brings me **Hope** and **Peace**, and fills my life with **Joy**
For ev’ry day I have on earth Is showered in His **Love**
So I will give my life, my all To love and follow Him
Oh to love and follow Him

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As is our tradition we will ask a member to come and light the 1st & 2nd Candle and read a scripture and lead us in a prayer.

The 2nd Advent candle represents PEACE. Hope is an important theme relating to Christmas, and especially relating to the Advent season leading up to Christmas. Our world is in desperate need of Peace. Christ came at Christmas to bring us peace, and that is what we want to see in the Scriptures this morning.

ADVENT CANDLE READING & LIGHTING BY CHURCH MEMBER:

Micah 5:2,4,5...² *“But you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”*⁴ *He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.*⁵ *And He will be our peace.*

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are the God who gives peace. This second week of Advent, cause us to remember that because of Jesus we can experience a Christmas free from turmoil and chaos. Regardless of our circumstances or our situations, you offer us peace that passes understanding. O Lord, keep us in perfect peace as our mind is stayed on the truth of your powerful love. Thank you for your mighty, sovereign hand. Help us to trust fully in you and find peace even in our struggles. In the precious name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, I pray. Amen.

The biblical definition of peace (shalom) is completeness, soundness, without strife. It's nothing broken or missing which indicates wholeness and well-being. It also includes the concepts of unity, harmony and reconciliation.

Adapted from ACTIVATE ADVENT: ACTIVATE PEACE. DECEMBER 10, 2017 | STEVE HORN
[HTTPS://WWW.FBCLAF.ORG/SERMON/ACTIVATE-ADVENT-ACTIVATE-PEACE/](https://www.fbclaf.org/sermon/activate-advent-activate-peace/)

Luke 2:8-14...¹¹ *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*¹² *And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*¹³ *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*¹⁴ *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

➤ **Peace is not in the absence of pain.**

Jesus had pain. He knew the pain of rejection. He knew the pain of the cross and death. He knew the pain of anticipating death. He anticipated the pain of the disciples. And you know what? He knows your pain. When Jesus says that “in Him” we have peace, He is not saying that we will not experience pain. In fact, He gives us this encouragement, because He knows we will have pain.

➤ **Peace is not in the absence of problems.**

Jesus foreshadows the problems. He announces the problems.

➤ **Peace is a person.**

This idea of peace comes about in John 14-16 in several ways. First, in John 14:6, Jesus declared about Himself, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” This is a reference about the way to Heaven. Peace with God and eternity in Heaven is through Him. I am convinced that we will never arrive at peace about this life until we have peace about the life to come in eternity. This is the starting place to real peace.

God revealed Himself to people through the person of Jesus. Jesus came to earth in a peaceful way as a baby in a humble circumstance of a manger and proceeded to live a humble life (imagine being God and putting yourself into the limitations of a human body!) (S. Horn)

<https://thelife.com/christmas-peace>. Justin Hwang

Jesus came to restore our broken relationship with God so that we could first experience wholeness and peace with ourselves, and then extend it to others around us.

Through a personal relationship with Jesus:

We find peace with God.

He came to live life perfectly and died in our place to pay the consequence for our sin. His death made peace between our sinful nature and God's holy nature. His coming back to life gives us hope of living in peace with God.

Romans 5:1,2... Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

We find wholeness and peace with ourselves.

Our esteem is based on what God thinks of us — something that never changes — instead of on the fluctuating foundations of others' opinions, fleeting accomplishments, or changing circumstances. Our identity is based on who God has made us to be, not on the things that we do.

John 14:27... *"I Am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the PEACE I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.* (NLB)

We find wholeness and peace in our relationship with others

because we begin to change and see people through God's eyes. We remember that God first loved us, and we grow in wanting to extend love to others.

2 Corinthians 13:11... *Finally, brothers & sisters,] rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

We can bring healing and wholeness to others around us, (peace on earth)

in the communities, the cities, and the world we live in. We begin to see hope for change in others and the world around us.

Luke 4:18,19...¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,*

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Coming into a relationship with Jesus by faith and following Him does not mean a life free of conflict. But He offers a promise of hope of something better to come, and a power to bring some of that better world here and now. He offers a strength to persevere until that time a new world comes. "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled," is a line in a Christmas carol that gives a picture of Jesus as God's gift of peace to us. "Shalom" is a Hebrew word that signifies "peace" or "more than well." Jesus was the perfect example of "shalom" lived out; He demonstrated the kind of peace we all long for. Being the Son of God, Jesus was at complete peace and unity with God ("I and the Father are one," is a statement He made about Himself). He always treated people with respect, wisdom and love. He brought peace to those around him, and He ultimately wants to bring peace between you and God. As the ancient meaning of "shalom" as a greeting signifies, "May you live in anticipation of the day when God makes things whole again."

Take a look at your life. How would you describe it?

Contented? Rushed? Exciting? Stressful? Moving forward? Holding back? For many of us it's all of the above at times. There are things we dream of doing one day, and there are things we wish we could forget. In the Bible, it says that Jesus came to make all things new. What would your life look like if you could start over with a clean slate?

You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer! (Prayer is talking with God) God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen. Reprinted from <https://thelife.com/christmas-peace>. Justin Hwang

Additional reading on the subject
Pushing Stress Out of Your Life

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/exchange-panic-for-peace-this-christmas>

1. Rely on God for your emotional support.

With so much to do to prepare for the holidays, it's natural for us to rely on people around us to notice when we're overwhelmed and offer a helping hand, or just lend some encouragement and support.

The reality of you and me expecting others to appreciate us or come to our emotional aid at this time of year is that **everyone else around us is as busy as we are.**

During these times, I've learned that God has the best listening ear.

Scripture says God understands our thoughts while they're still far away (Psalm 139:2); He is a refuge for us when we need to pour out our hearts to Him (Psalm 62:8); and there is nowhere we can go—physically or emotionally—where He is not right there with us (Psalm 139:7-12).

When we look to others to understand what we're going through, we are often disappointed. When we depend on others for emotional support or a kind word to keep us going, we tend to feel let down. We tend to put a burden on them that they often can't meet.

But God, your Maker and Sustainer, knows and understands what you're feeling. Go to Him in prayer throughout the day. Talk to Him about how you feel. Rely on Him for what you need. And be refreshed knowing He hears, He cares and He understands.

2. Refresh yourself in God's Word.

I am convinced that if I don't go to God's Word first in the morning, I won't get anything done. I also realize if I don't spend at least some time in God's Word each day, I am a mess. I've found, especially at this

time of the year, that Scripture can be a spiritual source of energy to get me through the day.

Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness." **That means reading Scripture is like getting a breath of fresh air from the Living God.**

Start in the Psalms. Read of the songwriters' depression or anguish or complacency. See how they work through it by recalling Who God is and how He is worthy of praise. While many of the songwriters start a song flat on their faces in pity, they end on their feet in praise. Their focus on God gave them the energy to get up off the floor and onto their feet.

It can do the same for you and me if we struggle with even getting out of bed! Fuel yourself by getting into God's Word—even if it's just reading a Psalm a day—and see if God doesn't breathe His life and rest into your day that calms your heart and soul.

3. Refocus on rest.

Rather than thinking of all you have to do this season, can you consciously slow down long enough to remember why (if there is a reason) everything needs to get done?

Christmas was never meant to be a time of busyness, stress, long lines and packed to-do lists. Instead, it's a time to slow down and reflect on the greatest gift that we have received—the gift of a Savior.

The Bible instructs us to "be still, and know I am God" (Psalm 46:10, NIV). That verse, in context, was a reminder to God's people that in the true knowledge of God and His deliverance, there is peace, in contrast to the troubled nations that didn't know God or His deliverance.

If you and I know God, and His deliverance through His Son, Jesus, we can know peace in a way that the rest of the world can't imagine. In the New American Standard Bible, that verse reads: "Cease striving and know that I am God."

Can you and I "cease striving" to do all we think we must do and remember that simply knowing God (and the fact that He has delivered us from the punishment of our sin) amounts to peace and rest? And that peace is not just in eternal matters. **If you and I can trust God with our eternal life, certainly we can trust Him with our everyday life.** To rest is to trust Him in all things. And to trust Him in all things is to rest.

4. Remember your priority relationships.

When we remember what's most important in life, it can keep us from running on empty.

We were made to love God and enjoy Him forever. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love others as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). That means all you think you have to do and all the money you feel you have to spend, pale in comparison to the people right in front of you.

As you start to stress, ask yourself these questions:

What is more important, the project or the person I'm neglecting in order to get it done?

A perfectly decorated house or my children who want me to play with them?

The amount of money I spend on someone or the time I'm willing to spend with them?"

In your busyness this Christmas, don't neglect the One this season is all about. Don't neglect the loved ones He has given you to share your life with. As you prioritize people over productivity, you'll find it's easier to let some things go.

Tell yourself: *If I say no to more things, that's more time I have with those I love.*

5. Reflect on what matters most.

Christmas is about the greatest gift you and I could ever receive—the gift of a Savior whom God sent to be a perfect example of living faith, to die for our sins and be the perfect sacrifice God required for our justification, and to rise again to conquer death and offer us life eternal.

Because there is nothing we could ever do to deserve that gift, we accept it humbly and, out of our love for God and His perfect gift to us, we seek to emulate that love and give to others.

I often tell my daughter, "Christmas is all about what God gave us, so we need to focus on what we can now give to others." But giving to others doesn't have to be monetary or materialistic. Maybe you give someone your time, your heart, a much-needed smile, a helping hand, a watchful eye or a listening ear.

Ask God how you can give to each person who means the world to you, and to others who might not mean anything to anyone. As you do, you will be giving God the greatest gift He could receive, your desire to be more like His Son.

What do you think? Can you try one, two or all five of these ways to exchange panic for peace? Try. If you do, you'll be focusing on the few things that really matter this Christmas and feeling a lot less stressed.

This article is courtesy of [HomeLife](http://www.homelife.com) magazine.

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/exchange-panic-for-peace-this-christmas>

- 1) Jesus brings peace with God.
- 2) Jesus brings peace with self.
- 3) Jesus brings peace with others. And
- 4) Jesus will bring peace on earth.

I. Jesus brings peace with God

– Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:26-30, 76-79; Romans 5:1

So let's start with the first one – Jesus brings peace with God. We read in Romans 5:1: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1) Notice that we are not naturally at peace with God. The Bible tells us our sins have separated us from God, and it is only through Jesus and faith in him that we are brought into a relationship of peace with our God and Creator.

When God first sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, he sent Gabriel with a message of peace. We read in Luke 1:26-30: “In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.’” (Luke 1:26-30)

Mary was troubled at the angel's greeting, but the angel spoke words of peace and assurance to her, telling her not to be afraid because God was with her and she had found favor with God. You might wonder how did Mary find favor with God? The only way any of us find favor with God. She had faith in God and in his promise of the Messiah to come. Like so many Old Testament believers before her, she had faith in Christ before Christ even came. And now God had chosen her to be the vessel through which his Son would enter the world.

God also sent an angel to Joseph, Mary's husband-to-be. And the angel told Joseph in Matthew 1:21: “She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21) The name “Jesus” actually means “salvation.” Jesus was given this name because he was the promised Savior who came to bring us peace with God by saving us from our sins.

When John the Baptist was born three months before Jesus, John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied about John. And in his prophecy he spoke about how John would go before Jesus preparing the way for this One who would bring us peace with God through the forgiveness of our sins. Hear Zechariah's words about John the Baptist in Luke 1: “And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins ... to guide our feet into the path of peace.” (Luke 1:76-79)

How did Jesus do this? Why is it that everyone who puts their faith in Jesus finds peace with God? It is because of what Jesus did at the cross. Jesus was born into this world to die on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be restored to a right relationship of peace with God. As we read in Isaiah 53:5: “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

That's the first and most important thing the Advent candle of peace reminds us at Christmas. Jesus brings peace with God.

II. Jesus brings peace with self

– Luke 2:28-31; John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7

Secondly, Jesus brings peace with self. Sin not only separates us from God. Sin also brings separation within our own being. We are conflicted beings. We are constantly fighting anxiety and stress and inner turmoil. We desperately need inner peace, and Jesus came not only to bring peace with God but also personal peace within ourselves. Last week we looked at a man named Simeon. God had promised Simeon that he would see the Messiah before he died, and, wouldn't you know it, the Holy Spirit moved Simeon to go into the temple courts just as Joseph and Mary were bringing the infant Jesus into the temple. We read in Luke 2 that Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people.” (Luke 2:28-31)

Simeon is a wonderful example of Jesus bringing personal peace. We sometimes talk about our bucket lists, all the things we want to do or

accomplish before we finish our lives here on earth. Well, apparently Simeon only had one thing on his bucket list – he wanted to see the Messiah before he died. And when he finally did, when he finally saw Jesus – that was all he needed.

He praised God saying, “You now dismiss your servant in peace.”

Simeon embraced Christ, and he was at peace within himself.

When you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you not only receive peace with God. You also receive the peace of God to help you through the difficult circumstances of life. When you know Christ, everything can be going crazy around you, and you can still be at peace within yourself.

Philippians 4 instructs us: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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.” (Philippians 4:6-7) Notice that this wonderful peace of God is only available in and through Jesus Christ. The Bible says the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear these beautiful words of Jesus from John 14:27: “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) Jesus not only brings peace with God. He also brings peace with self.

III. Jesus brings peace with others

– Matthew 1:20; Ephesians 2:14; Colossians 3:15

And then thirdly, Jesus brings peace with others. We have a wonderful example of this early in the Christmas story. When Joseph first heard that Mary was pregnant, he considered breaking off the engagement. He must have been terribly hurt and confused thinking that Mary had been unfaithful to him. But then we read in Matthew 1: “After he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’”

(Matthew 1:20)

If Mary was pregnant with any other child, Joseph would most likely have broken the engagement. But this wasn’t any other child. This was Jesus, and he was conceived in her from the Holy Spirit. And so Jesus,

even before he was born, brought peace between Joseph and Mary and kept their marriage from coming apart.

We go through many challenges in this life, and one of the most difficult is when our relationships are in turmoil. That’s when we need to ask Jesus – the Prince of Peace – to come and bring us peace in our relationships, to intervene, to reconcile and to restore.

We read this about Jesus in Ephesians 2:14: “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) Jesus came to break down the barriers, to bridge the gaps, to bring people together and to restore peace to our damaged relationships.

As believers in Christ, we are called to follow in his footsteps. As Colossians 3:15 says: “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.” (Colossians 3:15) Jesus brings peace with others.

IV. Jesus will bring peace on earth

– Isaiah 2:4, 9:6-7, 11:6-9; Luke 2:13-14; Colossians 1:19-20

1) Jesus brings peace with God. 2) Jesus brings peace with self. 3) Jesus brings peace with others. And then finally, 4) Jesus will bring peace on earth. The angels who announced Jesus’ birth to the shepherds that first Christmas Eve also proclaimed the peace that Jesus would bring to our planet. We read in Luke 2: “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’”

(Luke 2:13-14)

This is a peace that was prophesied back in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. We read this wonderful prophecy about Jesus back in Isaiah 2:4: “He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)

Some people might ask, “How do we know Isaiah was talking about Jesus bringing peace and not just God in general?” Well, you flip forward a few chapters to Isaiah 9 and we find these words about who will ultimately bring peace on earth: “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. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.” (Isaiah 9:6-7) This is a clear prophecy about Jesus who was born as a child, who will be called Prince of Peace, and who will one day rule in peace over all the earth.

But it gets even better than that, because this peace on earth will not only bring an end to war among the nations. It will even extend to nature and the animal kingdom. We read in Isaiah 11:6-9: “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. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:6-9) Jesus truly is the Prince of Peace.

But it gets even better than that! Because the Bible tells us that Jesus will not only bring peace on earth but will bring peace to the whole universe and that he will reconcile all things to himself in heaven and on earth. We read in Colossians 1: “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and 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.” (Colossians 1:19-20)

CONCLUSION: And so this verse in Colossians brings us right back to where we started. The reason Jesus brings peace with God, peace with self, peace with others and peace on earth all goes back to the cross. Without the Jesus shedding his blood on the cross, there would be no peace. And without Jesus being born as a baby at Christmas, there would be no cross.

Do you have peace with God this morning? Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins so that you could be forgiven and restored to right relationship with God. If your faith is in Christ, then you have peace with God.

Do you have peace with your self this morning? If your faith is in Christ, then Jesus has not abandoned you but has come to live in you by his Holy Spirit. And he offers you his peace. “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)

Do you have peace with others this morning? If your faith is in Christ, then he has given you all the resources you need to do your part in living in peaceful relationships with those around you. And after you have done your part, you may ask Jesus in prayer to work in the other person’s heart that you may live in peace.

Do we have peace on earth this morning? Oh, how I wish we did! We do not have peace on earth yet, but we have the promise of peace on earth to come, and God has never yet broken a promise.

The angels proclaimed to the shepherds that first Christmas Eve: “Peace on earth, goodwill towards men!” (Luke 2:14) Those words of promise still ring in the air this Christmas season as we worship and adore the Lord Jesus, our Savior, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace.

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<http://www.rayfowler.org/sermons/five-candles-at-christmas/advent-candle-of-peace/>

“How do we activate peace in our lives?

We must trust in Him for everything including our eternal destiny. We find our peace in His peace, not our peace.

We must talk to Him about everything.

Philippians 4:6-7 says:

Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (

We must turn to Him in everything

Let’s end where we started with the announcement from the angels.

Luke 2:14... Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!

I think about the hymn, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.**