

# Peace Incarnate

## Peace!

Diplomats talk about it. Legislators try to negotiate it.

But real peace defies their efforts and we wonder...

As the whole world teeters on a hand grenade, as family and personal relationships continue to erode and internal conflict occupies a prominence in the human soul, a desperate cry arises, "Is peace really possible?"

In 1863, during the American Civil War, a portion of a poem by Henry Longfellow depicts this anguish:

"And in despair I bowed my head, 'There is no peace on earth,' I said,  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."

In some liturgical churches, Sunday worship always includes The Lord's Prayer  
in which a significant longing is verbalized,

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

In a sense, those of us who have believed in Jesus and received the grace of God that He taught in His first coming already live in His kingdom, though now invisible. With Christ's second coming, He will establish the Kingdom of God on earth with its **never-ending glory and peace**, and Jesus, our **Peace Incarnate** will reign forever as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is what theologians call the already-but-not-yet hope of our faith.

In Isaiah 53:5, the prophet states what makes our present and future, eternal peace possible:

***"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."***

To answer the question, "Is peace really possible?"

In a relationship with Jesus, we can answer "Yes!" as we abide in Him.

This truth is verified in another verse of Longfellow's poem:

"When men repent and turn from sin, the Prince of Peace then enters in,  
and grace imparts within their hearts, His peace on earth, good will to men."

But for those who have yet to embrace Jesus' **Hope, Love, Joy and Peace**, He is being patient in His second coming, not wanting anyone to perish but to come and say "Yes" to His offer of eternal life.

In the eternal kingdom of peace, those who were once sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, who became children of God, will be perfected in every way. They will no longer feel any animosity, distrust or dislike of others.

All will live together, forever in perfect, harmonious relationships.

Even animals, once vicious toward one another, will live in absolute tranquility together:

*"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them."*

Isaiah 11:6

In the present, sacred moment as we anticipate a glorious future of perfect peace in every way, we know that there are not enough words to say who You are, Lord Jesus, or enough earthly breath to speak it.

Simply hear us as we confess,

**YOU ARE LORD!**

...and wait for the promised day when “...*at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

Philippians 2:10, 11

As we enter the fourth week of Advent, may we hear Christ’s proclamation of peace with fresh clarity and allow His words to fashion our thoughts and activities in anticipation of our Christmas Day celebration.

*“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)

And may we also this week offer Jesus our grateful selves with humility and sincerity of heart as we reflect on the totality of this amazing Son of God and Son of Man.

You came, Lord Jesus,  
once as an infant:  
God’s perfect Son,  
Babe of Bethlehem,  
Word made flesh,  
Savior of the world,  
Gift of the Father’s unfailing love,  
Immanuel with skin.

And yet with each breath of the Spirit indwelling our souls,  
You continue to come in the fullness of Your resurrected glory:

Protecting with Your Covenant Promise,  
Embracing with **Hope**,  
Affirming with **Love**,  
Encouraging with **Joy**,  
Sanctifying with **Peace**,  
Dying with Purpose,  
Forgiving with Tears,  
Redeeming with a Cross,  
Reigning with Eternal Life,  
Illuminating with Inextinguishable Light,  
Revealing Your presence through Your Word,  
Reclaiming Your chosen ones as children of the Most High God.

Thus, we can announce with conviction this Christmas season,

*“For unto us is born this day...a Savior, Christ the Lord.”*

(Luke 2:11)

*“And He shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.”*

(Isaiah 9:6)

You are Messiah Jesus, the One and Only true Blessing of Christmas, whose kingdom will be upheld with justice and righteousness, and **Your peace** will have no end.

Thus, all our laughter, singing, praying, opening of presents and indulgent feasting this Christmas season

we offer in celebration of who You are:

**Hope Incarnate**

**Love Incarnate**

**Joy Incarnate**

**Peace Incarnate**

All glory and honor belong to You forever.