

THE CAST OF CHRISTMAS – The Angels (with Scripture)

MONDAY, December 6, 2021 – Read Luke 2:8-14 - *8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

"Peace on earth and good will to men" is the oft repeated message of Christmas. But, as poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow sadly observed, "hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men." Anger and strife plague our nation and our world. Now, more than ever, the message of peace and good will needs to be heard loud and clear. For certainly, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail with peace on earth, good will to men." May our proclamation of peace ring loud and clear this Christmas.

TUESDAY, December 7, 2021 – Read Isaiah 9:6-7 – *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 greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.*

Jesus Christ is our "Prince of Peace." Through Him our relationship with God and others is restored. In Him we find rest and repose for our souls. And because of Him our future is secure. He is our peace. It is only through our continuous and enduring relationship with Jesus that we can experience and express peace in this sinful and unsettled world. May His peace not only rest upon us today, but influence those around us as we proclaim, "peace on earth, good will to men."

WEDNESDAY, December 8, 2021 – Read 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.*

We are facing a world of unrest. Recent events have triggered health unrest, economic unrest, and social unrest. Yet amid the unrest is this promise of peace from Jesus. Many define peace as the absence of conflict or trouble. But, since Jesus spoke these words just prior to His arrest and crucifixion, He is more likely referring to the ability to experience rest, quiet, and stillness in our hearts despite conflict and trouble. The peace Jesus gives is not dependent on our circumstances. Rather, it is the assurance that God is with us and will see us through any

trouble, disappointment, or anxiety that may come our way. So, don't let your hearts be troubled. Receive His peace today!

THURSDAY, December 9, 2021 – Read Isaiah 52:7 – *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say . . . , “Our God reigns!”*

It takes feet to share the good news of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. The good news the angels first proclaimed was transported by the shepherds to Bethlehem and beyond. “And all who heard it were amazed.” Like the shepherds, we too are commanded to “go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15). May your feet be beautiful today as you bring with you wherever you go – work, school, the grocery store, the doctor's office - the good news of God peace through Jesus Christ.

FRIDAY, December 10, 2021 – Read Number 6:22-26 - 22 *The Lord said to Moses, 23 “Tell Aaron and his sons, This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 ‘The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.’”*

The message of Christmas is the promise that GOD IS WITH US! The assurance of God's presence is the source of our hope, our love, our joy, and our peace. So, may the Lord bless you and keep you. May He make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May He turn His face towards you and give you peace. May His favor rest upon you and your family. May His presence go before you, behind you, beside you, and all around you. And may you experience GOD WITH YOU today and every day.