

Bible Study for Sunday Dec 9, 2018

Our texts for this Sunday are:

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- John 1:5-9

Opening Question:

Describe what peace means to you and what you think it looks like for the world.

Isaiah 11:1-10 set-up

These words from the prophet Isaiah come at a time when it appeared that the fierce empire of Assyria (the Israelite's captors) would totally annihilate the people of God—indeed, what little was left of the nation of Judah is viewed as a mere stump of a tree that has been chopped down to the ground. But the Lord declares that from this stump there shall spring new life (11:1). Great King David's royal line would not be extinguished; rather, it would produce a King (the Messiah) who will one day rule over all the earth.

Read Isaiah 11:1-10

How would you imagine the people of Israel would hear these words? How might you if you were under oppressive rule?

How might these words from the prophet's vision be relevant for us here? When and where do you yearn for this to be especially so?

What do you think of when you hear the title "Peaceful Kingdom?"

What will conditions be like when Jesus the Messiah exercises His reign?

Edom, Moab, and the Ammonites were the archenemies of Old Testament Israel. But here God speaks of their reconciliation (and the whole world actually) to the Lord. What happens to make that possible?

The words spoken for and gifted to you on your Confirmation were that you might be given "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in God's presence." What difference does this make for you?

Have you ever experienced a time when something looked really dead...but it wasn't? Were you surprised by the growth?

What might it look like this December if we were all to live like this is so?

Read John 1:5-9

What do you think “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” means for the world, both then and now? Why is it important?

How might these two texts be connected?

What is needed for something (organic) to grow?

Why do you think the four central themes of Advent are hope, peace, joy and love?

Which of these four themes are present in our two texts? How so?

Isaiah 11:1-10 The Peaceful Kingdom

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; 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 around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling 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 asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

John 1:5-9

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

