

PEACE CAN'T WAIT

December 4, 2022

Preaching: Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



ISAIAH 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 southelkhorncc.org

nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. This week's Advent theme is "peace." What does peace mean? How do you experience God's peace in your life?
3. This passage offers stunning and surprising imagery to speak of that Holy Day when all shall be made right again: predators and prey resting together, children leading. This kind of reconciling, empowering, and non-violent peace appears impossible: it is contrary to nature itself. What in your life might seem just as strange or impossible for God to reconcile and bring to peace? What in the wider world seems equally strange or impossible for God to bring to peace?
4. The early church saw the ministry, life, death and resurrection of Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah's desire for God's great reversal: justice, mercy, and reconciling peace for all, especially the poor, suffering, and marginalized. Why do you think they saw this in Jesus?
5. The Hebrew word for peace is *Shalom* and means more than the absence of conflict or war. It means completeness, wholeness, or fullness. What might you be neglecting or ignoring in your life that you can turn to this Advent so you can experience spiritual wholeness? Is there a relationship, issue, or past hurt that is festering in the background? Is there a habit or opportunity that you can embrace?