



First United Methodist Church of Hanford  
*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



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### **“Peace on earth”**

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

This is a wonderful passage from Isaiah. And as we walk this Advent/Christmas season it is a great reminder of God coming into our world in human form. We sing this verse during this season to proclaim the wonderful gift we have been given in Jesus Christ. His name – Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

We love them all, but this last one - Prince of Peace - really stands out as something different. Peace is elusive. It is difficult to get a hold of because there can be so much conflict in our lives. Yet Jesus is called the Prince of Peace for a reason.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5: 9, Jesus said, *blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.* In John 14: 27 Jesus said to his disciples - *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.* And in Colossians 3:15 the Apostle Paul tells the church - *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

We represent Christ, in this world, as His followers. Since He is the Prince of Peace we are called to be ambassadors of His peace in this world. Again, Jesus says in John 14:27 that He’s given us His peace; it’s a gift that is ours. And no matter what happens we can experience the peace of God by letting it reign in our lives.

When we hear this we cannot help but think we have a choice. We can allow our hearts to be troubled and afraid or we can take the advice Jesus offers and live in peace. But how does this work? How can we let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts? It begins with knowing Jesus and

the gift He is. When we realize this gift of peace, it changes our spirit. When our spirit gets up close and personal with God's Spirit we begin to reflect the character of God Himself.

Take time to understand that the promise of God's peace every moment of every day is possible when we remember our calling in Christ.

During this holy season take time to reflect on our great Prince of Peace. Talk and listen to Him; and give thanks for the peace we have with God because of Jesus Christ and all that He's done for us by His life, death and resurrection.

"Now I can say I Live a Day" (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

**UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL** <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

**UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS** <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>