

## 12-10-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“We do not yet see the peace of God reigning among the nations of the world. We may be tempted to complain and despair, to become cynical or depressed, or to simply give up. But God calls us to live by God’s light, and not to dwell in the present darkness. God calls us to faith in a soaring promise of peace, and asks us to become peacemakers, wherever and however we can.”

- David Vryhof



Isaiah 40:1-11 ☩ Mark 1:1-8

### Questions for Reflection —

- Have you ever experienced a dead end on your spiritual journey? What helped you to turn around and find your way back to God’s life-giving path? How smooth is the spiritual path on which you are currently walking? What have been some of the twists and turns in your walk with God? Where and how have you encountered rough terrain? What do you need in order to follow a straight path of generosity, compassion, and justice, living as God intends? How will you prepare a way for the Lord in your life in this Advent season?
  
- What does it mean in a world of chaos, pain, and conflict that Jesus is the Prince of Peace? What would it look like for real peace, true peace, just peace to prevail in the world? What can we as a congregation contribute towards that end? In what ways might you play a role as peacemaker in various life situations? What does it mean when we pass peace with one another in worship? How might you pass the peace of Christ in your everyday encounters outside the life of the church?
  
- What does inner peace look and feel like for you? What fears, anxieties, or distractions are currently interfering with your sense of inner peace? What are some ways you can offer the gift of peace to yourself? What spiritual practices will help you cultivate deeper inner peace? How might you be a peaceful presence for others?

### Daily Household Prayer

O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald’s urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ. We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.