

SERMON NOTES:



Nov 30, 2025

ADVENT WEEK 2

Pastor Mick Spann

PEACE

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.” (Luke 2:8–14)

1. Our World's Lack of Peace

- We long for peace because we don't have enough of it:
- Advent's invitation to consider Peace isn't a “spa-day peace” but deep, ancient peace.

2. Biblical Peace = SHALOM (שלום)

- The Greek word eirēnē (εἰρήνη) and the Hebrew word shalom (שלום), refer to:
 - Wholeness, Restoration, Completeness, Nothing missing, nothing broken
- Shalom = the world healed.
 - Relationships reconciled, Justice done, Creation flourishing, Dividing walls between people torn down and lives rebuilt
- When angels say “Peace on earth!” → they announce restoration, the Great Repair.

3. God Reigns Even When the World Is Broken

- Two Psalms often read during this period of advent are Psalm 96 and 97.
- Despite the mess of our world, the Psalmist boldly proclaims: “The Lord reigns.”
- Because when God's reign touches earth:
 - Justice is restored, Evil confronted, Creation protected, Weak lifted up, Idols toppled and broken things are made whole
- “The earth rejoices because God is King.”
- Peace is not manufactured — it is received when we live under God's kingship.

4. The Promise of the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

- “For to us a child is born... and He will be called... Prince of Peace.”
- Jesus is not just peaceful — He is Shalom embodied:
 - In His birth → peace arrives
 - In His teaching → peace revealed
 - In His cross → peace made
 - In His resurrection → peace guaranteed
 - In His return → peace will be completed

5. Advent Tension – Already / Not Yet

- Peace has come, but is not yet complete — we taste it, glimpse it, but also ache for it.

6. Christ Is Our Peace

- “He Himself is our peace.” (Ephesians 2:14)
- Peace not from escaping the world, but joining Jesus in it.
- Jesus to disciples: “Peace be with you.” (John 20:19)
 - Not because circumstances changed, but because He was with them and God’s reign was now upon them.

7. Honest Waiting

- Advent gives permission to say: “Lord, the world is not yet at peace, but You are our peace.”
- Advent invites us to carry tensions, anxiety, illness and wounds — into Jesus’ light.

8. “My Peace I Give You” (John 14:27)

- Jesus gives peace “not as the world gives.”
- World’s peace = temporary, fragile, circumstantial.
- Jesus’ peace = rooted in His rule, presence, promises.

SO WHAT DOES THAT ALL MEAN FOR ME?

PEACE WITH GOD

Advent is a time that invites us to “prepare the way of the Lord” in our hearts through Confession (naming what is broken) and Repentance (turning away from it and walking with Christ).

- Yoke imagery: two oxen ploughing, connected by a yoke. On our journey with Jesus, He carries the weight, and provides gives direction. We need simply listen and obey.
- Eugene Peterson: “Faith is long obedience in the same direction.”
- On our journey we often “kick against the goad” (like Saul in Acts), unaware that our pain often comes from resisting Him. Peace comes when we walk with Him.
- Consider these passages:

Psalms 32:3–5; 1 Peter 5:6–7; Hosea 6:1; Colossians 1:19–20; Romans 5:1–2

PEACE WITH OTHERS

- The Good News tears down ethnic, social and personal walls.
- Both Jew and Gentile → now one family in Christ. Unified yet Diverse...
- Unity is not uniformity — Diversity is not division.
- We forgive because we have been forgiven.
- Consider these passages:

Colossians 3:12–17; Revelation 7:9

Next Sunday Christians worldwide will light a small flame of Peace.

A reminder that all is not well, but because Christ has come to make all things well.

Peace rules where Christ reigns.

The Bible Project "Peace" Video



CLICK HERE

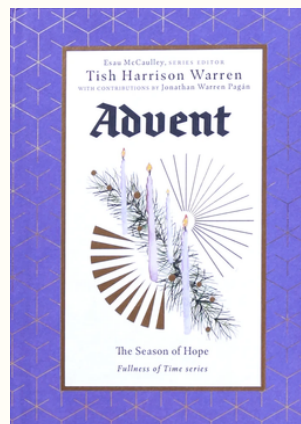


Advent Word Study

Shalom: "Peace"

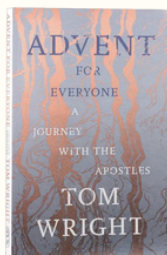
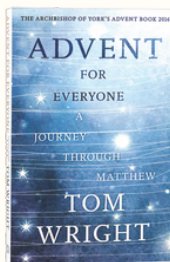
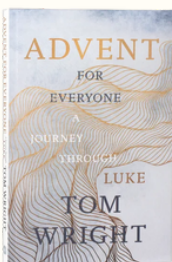


***Books that have helped Pastor Mick in preperation
for this series:***



Advent: The Season of Hope
(Fullness Of Time Series)
Tish Harrison Warren

CLICK HERE



Advent For
Everyone
N. T. Wright

CLICK HERE



PEACE

ADVENT 2025: WEEK 2



DAY	VERSE	REFLECTION QUESTION
Sunday Dec. 7	Isaiah 26:3	What situations of conflict are you currently facing? Where are you struggling to find internal peace? Consider inviting God into those situations.
Monday Dec. 8	Isaiah 9:6-7	As you reflect on your relationships with others and the state of the world, how does God's promise to bring unending peace among all humankind make you feel?
Tuesday Dec. 9	Zechariah 9:9-10	How is God's promised king different from the rulers of this world, who often bring "peace" through domination and violence?
Wednesday Dec. 10	John 16:33	What do you think Jesus means when he says that he has "overcome the world?" How might that understanding bring peace during times of trouble?
Thursday Dec. 11	Colossians 1:19-20	When Paul says "all things" here, he means everything God created, including you. How does it feel to know that God is reconciling everything to himself?
Friday Dec. 12	Ephesians 2:14-15	Where in your world are peacemakers needed right now? What might it look like to bring Jesus' kind of peace to these places?
Saturday Dec. 13	Ephesians 4:3	What might it look like for us to "keep the unity of the Spirit" as agents of God's peace today?

Watch the Peace Video

