

December 31, 2021 – New Year’s Eve / Watch Night

## **The Wonder of Peace**

**[Micah 5:5a](#)**

*“...and he shall be the one of peace.”*

The last day of 2021 is here. For nearly two years we have all experienced uncertainty and angst. Now, we are on the brink of a brand new year. 2022 is merely hours away. No matter what it brings, we know we can rest in Jesus, the one of peace, the one called Messiah who came just days ago as the babe in Bethlehem.

Do you feel a sense of wonder in His presence at this time of year? Are you ready for Him to shepherd you through a new year?

I, like many, have felt weary throughout much of 2021, and I often had to remind myself to seek rest in Jesus. Where do you find rest? Where do you feel closest to our Savior? Perhaps it is on a Sunday while sitting in a church pew or participating in an online worship service. Maybe it is during morning devotions, evening vespers, or a weekly Bible study. Some feel the presence of peace while singing and others through silent prayer.

For me, it can be any one of those, depending on the situation, or in a number of other places. Peace comes when strolling around WV Wesleyan College, my alma mater and where I married my spouse.

I breathe in peace when I’m at Jackson’s Mill, surrounded by countless 4-H memories. There is a sense of wonder as I feel His presence when visiting with a close friend who I know was truly sent by God to walk with me through troubled times.

Sometimes it’s when I’m laughing with my children. At other times, I’m filled with peace by walking at dusk around Buckhannon, my beautiful hometown. Or, as I head into a challenging meeting, I say a prayer and immediately feel calmer and more at ease even though it’s expected to be difficult and tense. In all of these, I know “the one of peace” is with me.

My hope and prayer for 2022 is that “the one of peace” walks alongside us all as our spiritual journeys continue, as we grow in faith and discipleship. Go now and prepare for an exciting new year filled with the promise of peace. May your new year 2022 overflow with abundant blessings!

***Prayer:*** *Gracious and Loving God, thank you for staying by our side throughout 2021. Guide us as we begin a new year and remind us that our rest and our renewal are found in you. Help us, dear Lord, to offer your light and love to all those we encounter throughout the new year 2022. In Jesus’ name, the one of peace, we pray, Amen.*

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