

December 28, 2023

The Peace In-between

Isaiah 57:7-10

*⁷ How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace! He announces victory and says to Zion, "Your God is king!"
⁸ Those who guard the city are shouting, shouting together for joy. They can see with their own eyes the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹ Break into shouts of joy, you ruins of Jerusalem! The LORD will rescue his city and comfort his people. ¹⁰ The LORD will use his holy power; he will save his people, and all the world will see it.*

We are stuck now in this in-between, the lull after Christmas, and the lull before New Year's. These days in some ways can be tough. Just like how the day in-between the death of Jesus and his resurrection was tough. As our anxieties start to creep up regarding the new year, and all of the things we face, wondering, will peace and prosperity finally come for the world, my family, my church, my friends? Will yesterday's heartbreak stop following me? Can we close this chapter?

This silent time is a time to ponder, to look forward to the promise that Christ has given. As is said, "break into shouts of joy, you ruins of Jerusalem!" We, the broken people of Christ's body, even in the silence and dread, should break into shouts of joy. Because we know of the promise, even in the lulls, when it is hardest to hold onto the peace that the Christmas season promises -- that Christ has won. It was written from the beginning with the LIVING word! It lives today too!

This is not the time to let it slip away; this is the time to hold onto it the hardest. This is when we show our discipline as Christians, as is said in the Prayer of St. Francis on page #481 of our Hymnals, "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace."

The Lord will rescue us all, we just have to continue believing it, simply and surely!

The world will see it: heaven and earth will become one. By the token of that prayer, let us be those messengers in this season, and outside of this season too, that instrument of peace across the earth. So let us be image bearers of Christ, for people who desperately need his comfort, his perfect, good news of hope, peace, joy, and love.

***Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for this silent, but solemn in-between time. Let us reflect on our year, and how on the upcoming year, we can be instruments of peace for your glory, so in our giving, we can receive, and in our pardoning, we are pardoned. Help us to see you fully this year and help us bear through this silent time. Amen.*

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