

Peace on Earth: Hope
Matthew 5:48, Isaiah 9:4-7
Dec. 02, 2018

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. As we enter this Advent after a tumultuous public (and possibly personal) year, what is on your mind?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, “peace on earth”?
3. How is the Hebrew word “shalom” similar and yet different from “peace”?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Jason reminded us that the Hebrew understanding of “Shalom” was that of wholeness, fullness. It is not necessarily being passive. In what ways is “shalom” active or even aggressive or costly?
2. Pastor Jason reflected that Jesus usage of “perfection” in Matthew 5:48 can be translated to mean “having a whole and perfect love.” What do you think this “whole and perfect love” encapsulates?
3. Pastor Jason also stated that “True peace cannot exist in the presence of injustice.” What do you think he means by this?
4. Why do we have to wait for Jesus to take on the mantle of government to bring about a lasting physical peace? Why can’t it be now?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. How have you experienced God’s peace before? Share your struggles or experiences of this.
2. How does the reality of pain and suffering play a role in our experience of shalom peace?
3. Think back on Reflection Question 1. How might God use us in His active peace?
4. Where in your life/the world are you hoping for God’s peace? Take some time to pray about it among your group.