



+ Midweek Advent 3 +  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023



*Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us today!*

# Midweek Advent Meditative Worship

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

## Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

**FROM THE LAY ELDER-DEACONS:** Welcome to Messiah. We want to make sure your worship experience goes well. So just as a reminder, ***please have cellphones ringers off during worship. Please remove hats, no earbuds, no gaming, no texting, and no social media. If you need to use your phone or have a conversation with someone, please excuse yourself from the sanctuary. Thank you.***

**FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:** Live audio of the worship service is available in the room next to the Narthex. It is located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom. This room is a safe place for anxious children (or adults) to go and still be a part of the worship service.

**Prayer before worship:** (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, as we gather in Your house to receive the gift of forgiveness through Your Word, guard us from vain and distracting thoughts. Grant us pause from our busy lives. Open our hearts so that we are receptive to the proclamation of life with Your Son, and do not close our ears to the offering of salvation. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen. (Adapted from **Right Worship of God** prayer in Portals of Prayer, April through June, 2011)*

### PRELUDE

**WORSHIP THEME:** Advent looks to the past to prepare us for the future. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's First Advent when He became incarnate as man, we review the promises of God as we prepare for Christ's Second and Final Advent.

**"Dining on the Fruit of Spirit."** Between Midweek Advent and Midweek Lenten services we are exploring 9 characteristics that make up the Fruit of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. These are how the Holy Spirit is working in us to be more like Jesus. Tonight, you will receive a fruit tree and a piece of fruit to put on that tree.

This week we explore the Holy Spirit's Fruit of Peace. Jesus' Peace is more than an absence of conflict with an adversary. It is an inner quality that only the Holy Spirit can give. This way our faith can function in a healthy way when it comes to our inner-being and how we address the challenges of our life. God bless you with more of His peace as you feed on God's Word tonight.

**OFFERING: *Please put your offering in the plates at the entrance. Thank you for your support.***

## **PRELUDE**

**WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – THE TRADITION OF EXTENDING THE PEACE OF CHRIST TO EACH OTHER**

**Bible Verse for Advent: *Isaiah 64:8 ESV***

P: But now, O LORD, You are our Father;

**C: We are the clay, and You are our Potter;**

P: We are the work of Your hand

**C: Mold me and make me Your treasure as we worship You.**

*(Lighting of the candles...to symbolize the special presence of Christ when we invoke the Name of God in which we were baptized.)*

***Adapted from the Order of Vespers from the Lutheran Service Book***

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P: Make haste, O God to deliver me.

**C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

P: World without end.

**C: Amen.**

P: Praise to You, O Christ.

**C: The King who comes to save us.**

*(Psalm 122:7-9 ESV)*

P: May there be peace within your walls

**C: and security within your citadels."**

P: For the sake of my family and friends,

**C: I will say, "Peace be within you."**

P: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

**C: I will seek your prosperity.**

## **HYMN OF THE NIGHT.....“Peace Like a River”.....BROWN #498**

1. I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
  
2. I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul
  
3. I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

### **SCRIPTURE READING #1: Galatians 5:22-25 ESV**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

### **SCRIPTURE READING #2: John 14:23-27 NIV**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

## Moment of Reflection from Flutist Tiffany Koenitzer

### SCRIPTURE READING #3: John 20:19-23 NIV

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

### SCRIPTURE READING #4: Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### HOMILY: "The Fruit of Peace that only Jesus can give" Text: John 20:19-23

*(If you are able, please stand)*

### RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT:

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a Righteous Branch

**C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.**

P: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

**C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.**

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.**

*(Please be seated)*

### PRAYERS FROM THE PEW

*(At the end of each prayer petition)*

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense.

**C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers, if you are able, please stand)*

**KYRIE** (as sung to the tune in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, page 7)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

**Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **COLLECT FOR PEACE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** *Now that we better appreciate God's everlasting blessings, here are some suggestions for ways we can show that thanksgiving through service and participating in our congregation.*

## **BENEDICTION**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN....."When Peace, like a River" LSB 763**

*(As the candles are extinguished, the acolyte/elder lights the taper from one of the candles to symbolize the light of Christ going with us as we leave to live our vocations in life, taking Christ's love out into the world. Please follow the light and the cross as they recess.)*



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My  
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

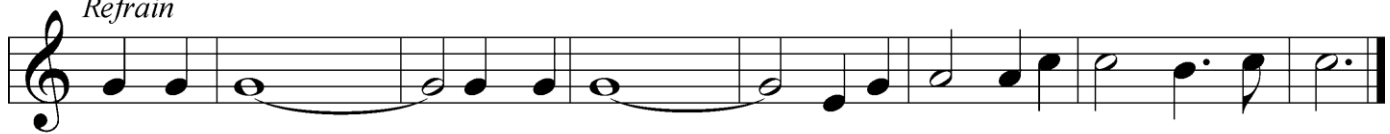


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

P: With the light of Christ, go with the peace of the Holy Spirit to spread Jesus' peace to others.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Poinsettias** If you are donating a poinsettia for the Christmas season please place it on the table in the hallway. Poinsettias will be brought into the sanctuary for each service and then returned to the table for watering and light.

**Christmas Caroling on THIS Saturday, December 16 at 10am:** We would like to assemble three teams featuring 4 singers a piece to carol to our Homebound members. Afterwards, we would have a great lunch together. If you are interested, please call or text Debbie Drost at 608-322-7253 or Pastor Dan at 314-775-7371.

**Free Artificial Christmas Trees:** 6 foot Westley Pine, 7 foot Elwood Pine, 7.5 foot Fake Needle, and 12 foot Rockford. If you or someone you know are in need of a tree, please contact Teresa Behl at the Church Office at 608-365-3794.

### **Upcoming Events at Messiah**

- Wednesday: December 20:  
 5:45pm - **Midweek Advent Supper**  
 7pm - **Midweek Advent Service**
- Sunday, **Christmas Eve**, December 24: 10am with Holy Communion (Mary's Song).  
 No Sunday School or Fellowship

- Sunday, **Christmas Eve**, December 24: 5pm with no Communion (Joseph's Song). Family Candles. Different service from 10am
- Monday, December 25 at 10am: **Christmas Day** Worship (Jesus' Song) with Holy Communion
- Wednesday, December 27 at 7pm: Repeat of Christmas Day Service
- Sunday, December 31 at 10am ONLY with Holy Communion. No Sunday School or Fellowship
- Wednesday, January 3 at 7pm: Repeat of Sunday's service.
- Saturday, January 6: **Lutheran Chicks' Shopping Spree Event** at Johnson Creek. Leave from Church at 9am
- Sunday, January 7: Normal Schedule returns with 9am and 11am services. Sunday School and Fellowship return.
- Sunday, January 7 at 2pm: **Merger Meeting with Elected Representatives from Messiah, St Johns and Trinity meet in Fellowship Hall.**
- Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 1pm: **LWML Prayer Rally Service.** Open to all.
- Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 5:30pm: **Women's Bible Study** premiere in downstairs Conference Room

Thursday	3:30-5:30pm	<b>Food Pantry open</b>
	5:45pm	<b>New Member Class</b> – Upstairs Conference Room
Saturday	9am	<b>Choir Practice</b> - Sanctuary
	10am	<b>Christmas Caroling to Shut-in and Homebound members</b>
Sunday	9am	Divine Worship with Holy Communion
	10am	Sunday School and Fellowship <b>Celebrating December Birthdays</b>
	11am	Divine Worship with no Communion – <b>Sunday School Christmas Program</b>

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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 Website: [mlcbeloit.com](http://mlcbeloit.com) - Facebook: "Messiah Lutheran Church-Beloit, WI"

YouTube Channel: **Messiah Lutheran Beloit**

Prayer Line: **608-365-4724**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-Noon