**Antigo Community Church – 12/26/21**

**His Name Shall be Called: Prince of Peace**

**Text: Isaiah 9:6**

Introduction

Review: Wonderful Counselor – Beyond understand, awe – Ps. 8 When I consider…, speaking

 words of life…

 Mighty God – Son of God – Gal. 4:4 …at right time…God sent his Son…born of a woman

 born under the law…to redeem, adopt and make heir

 Everlasting Father – “author” of eternity, the Word that was with God in the beginning

 became flesh and dwelt among us…the everlasting One who redeems, protects and

 blesses.

This morning: Prince of Peace

**Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

Definition – Peace/Shalom

**Shalom = wholeness, rightness, a living vibrant thing that makes for the wellbeing of mankind, when all is as it ought to be…**

Christmas – we wish/long for “peace on earth” Reality says otherwise…

Pandemic – created a disruption where we are divided and stressed emotionally, physically, financially…

Opioid crisis fueled by unemployment, cultural darkness and opioid availability = spike (up 20% in 2020) in “deaths of despair”

Surge in urban crime – general lawlessness…

So much for “peace on earth” – age old problem… mid 19th century – H. Longfellow penned these wordsthe Christmas carol: **“**I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

**“And in despair I bowed my head: ‘There is no peace on earth,’ I said, ‘For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men.’”**

So – how, then is Jesus our Prince of Peace? This title seems to ring hollow based on our experiences…Is this for another time/place?

**Jesus – Man of Peace**

Isaiah prophesied that Messiah:

**Isaiah 42:2-3 “He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.”**

Matthew 12:18-21 records the fulfillment of this.

Elsewhere…

Gethsemane – Peter pulls out a sword – Jesus peacefully surrenders

Before Pilate – Silent – would not defend Himself

On the Cross – “Father forgive them…”

Tension – Jesus also said:

**Luke 12:49-52 “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.”**

What? Explain Jesus’ baptism – the exposing of sin and its eventual destruction – this “battle” will cause division, (will you follow Christ or reject Him? See Mt. 10:32) but will ultimately yield peace.

**True peace and righteousness go together. Peace without righteousness is a false peace.**

Think Pax Romana…

**Jesus’ Righteousness Provides Peace with God**

Jesus – at His 1st advent – the incarnation…His righteousness became the payment for our sin.

**Colossians 1:19-20 “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”**

**Romans 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Before there will be true peace in our lives and on earth – we must first settle the war going on inside of us. Gospel

**Peace with God produces an internal peace – regardless of external circumstances – that defies explanation:**

**John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gibes. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”**

**Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests known to God. And the peace of God that transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

**Peace with God Yields Peace with Man**

We love because He first loved us… We forgive because we have been forgiven…

How often are we forgiven – 7x? 70x7! 1 John 1:9

Examples:

Kidnapped missionaries in Haiti – upon their escape –forgave their captors

Jesus Film – soldiers had raped her daughter and killed Shada’s brother. She was filled with hatred for every person from that people group. While in a refugee camp in northern Uganda – saw the Jesus Film – Jesus death at the hands of Roman soldiers - “Father forgive them…” She burst into tears and gave her life to Christ. Now – she is able to forgive the soldiers for the evil they had done…

**One Day there will be Peace on Earth!**

The suffering of His first advent will conclude with the forever reign of His return (2nd advent)!

The Already…

 At His incarnation – the Kingdom broke into the realm of human existence (Is. 35)

On the cross – the power of sin and death was destroyed

**Yet we wait….**

**“If I discover within myself a desire which no experience in the world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for a different world”**

 **C. S. Lewis**

**While we wait…**

**Titus 2: 12-13 “…[we live] upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”**

Snapshots of another world…

**The Not Yet…**

From I heard the Bells on Christmas Day…

**“Yet pealed the bells more loud and deep: ‘God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men.’”**

From It Came Upon the Midnight Clear…

**“For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophets seen of old,**

**When with the ever-circling years, Shall come the time foretold,**

**When the new heaven and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King,**

**And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing.”**

**Isaiah 65:17 “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”**

**Isaiah 9:7 [the Prince of Peace] “Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”**

**Anchor here…**

**Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will one day set the world right.**

**Until that time, may we, His set-right people, reveal snapshots of the Kingdom of Heaven while we wait for our coming Prince of Peace.**