

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Prophet Isaiah said, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 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. Of the greatness 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.”

In a world such as ours, filled with conflict, discord, and bloodshed, we desperately need peace. Last week we spoke of **HOPE**

[LIGHT THE FIRST PURPLE CANDLE AGAIN]

Now let’s have this second candle this year stand for *PEACE*. After all, Jesus is the “Prince of Peace.” He came to bring us peace with God, peace with ourselves, and peace with others.

Yes. There is so much conflict in the world. The whole world, and each one of us in it, needs the peace Jesus brings. The angels sang, “*Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth.*” Jesus’ peace is not just the absence of conflict but wholeness and well-being in all our relationships.

[LIGHT THE SECOND PURPLE CANDLE]

Let’s pray together. Dear Lord, we live with many conflicts within, and many conflicts without. As much as ever, it seems, we need the peace that only you can give. Thank you that Jesus came as the Prince of Peace. Help us turn to him every day, and to find that peace. Amen.