



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Sermon Series

10 DECEMBER 2023

PEACE OF CHRISTMAS

by Brandon Lee & Rev Dr Ng Kok Moi



Advent

The Season of Hope and Expectation

HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Sermon Series

3 DEC | HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

by Pastor Robin Liew

10 DEC | PEACE OF CHRISTMAS


by Brandon Lee & Rev Dr Ng Kok Moi

17 DEC | JOY OF CHRISTMAS

by Henry Wong

24 DEC | LOVE OF CHRISTMAS

by Rev Dr Ng Swee Ming



A silhouette of a nativity scene is set against a night sky with a bright star and other smaller stars. The scene includes the Virgin Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, and three wise men. The background is a gradient of dark blue and purple, with a bright starburst in the center.

Peace of Christmas

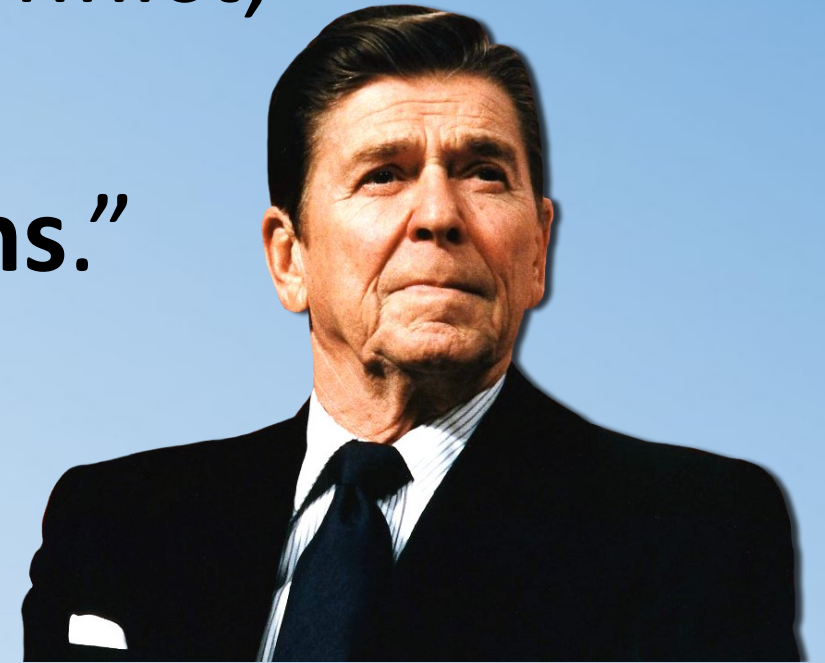
Luke 2:8-14

What comes to mind when you
think of the word **'Peace'**?



Some famous quotes about peace

“Peace is not the absence of conflict,
but the **ability to cope**
with conflict by peaceful means.”



Ronald Reagan
40th US President



Some famous quotes about peace

“It isn’t enough to talk about peace.
One must **believe in it**.
And it isn’t enough to believe in it.
One must **work at it**.”



Eleanor Roosevelt
Former First Lady



Some famous quotes about peace

**“When the power of love
overcomes the love of power
the world will know peace.”**



Jimi Hendrix

Singer, songwriter, guitarist




Definition of peace

1. Ending hostility in a war
2. Freedom from disturbance/ stress





Back to the garden

A silhouette of a person kneeling on a beach at sunset. The person is facing right, looking down at the water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the wet sand. The sky is a mix of orange and blue. A white oval with a thin black border is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

Peace in
these days..
Is it possible?

Peace in these days...

The summer of 2023 was the warmest Earth has been since 1880.

NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS)

2023 saw the most expensive year for weather and climate disasters in the US.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



Peace in these days...

2023 saw the highest number of ongoing armed conflict.

Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP)

In England, the number of children in mental health crisis hits record high for the year 2023.

NHS Digital



Peace in the Bible

שָׁלוֹם Shalom

Origin: Hebrew

Usage: Old Testament

Meaning: Wholeness/ completeness



שָׁלוֹם

Shalom

31 as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses—
an altar of *shalem* stones...

Joshua 8:31a



שְׁלוֹמִים

Shalom

7 When a man's ways please the LORD,
He makes even his enemies to be at
shalom with him.

Proverbs 16:7



Peace in the Bible

εἰρήνη Eirene

Origin: Greek

Usage: New Testament

Meaning: Wholeness/ completeness in
the person of Jesus



εἰρήνη

Eirene

14 For He Himself is our *eirene*, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

Ephesians 2:14



εἰρήνη

Eirene

27 *Eirene* I leave with you; My *eirene* 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.

John 14:27



Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.



Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.”



PEACE OF CHRISTMAS

1. **Peace** from God – **S**ource
2. **Peace** with God – **S**aved
3. **Peace** with self – **S**erene
4. **Peace** with others – **S**ettled
5. **Peace** of God – **S**hare



1. Peace From God - Source

- Emotional turmoil → anxiety
Albert Camus (Philosopher) – “an age of overt anxiety”
- Worldly peace: escapism; entertainment; ‘positive’ thinking → temporary
- God is the only source of true, lasting peace

**“²⁷ Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”
(John 14:27)**



1. Peace From God - Source



2. Peace With God - Saved

- Sin separated us from God who is holy



2. Peace With God - Saved

- Jesus paid the penalty for our sin
 - 21** Once you were alienated from God....
 - 22** But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight... (Col 1:21-22)



2. Peace With God - Saved

- **Salvation through Jesus and Jesus alone**
12 **Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”**
(Acts 4:12)



3. Peace With Self - Serene

- When we are at peace with God, we are at peace with ourselves.
- God brings peace to our lives by assuring us of our worth – we are His beloved – no need to prove ourselves or earn God's love

8 for whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye. (Zech 2:8)



What do we do when we face issues & challenges?

3. Peace With Self - Serene

**"⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."** (Phil 4:6-7)

- **When we surrender our worries and anxieties to God, we open ourselves up to receiving His peace.**



3. Peace With Self - Serene

We tend to stare at our lives and glance at God.
We want to stare at God and glance at our lives.

-Kristi Mclelland

Jesus & Women Bible Study

“Thou wilt keep him in
perfect peace, whose mind
is stayed on Thee”
(Isaiah 26:3)



4. Peace With Others - Settled

- **Sermon on the Mount – strive to be at peace with others**
 - **Love our enemies (Matt 5:44)**
 - **Pray for our enemies (Matt 5:44)**
 - **Go the extra mile (Matt 5:39-41)**



4. Peace With Others - Settled

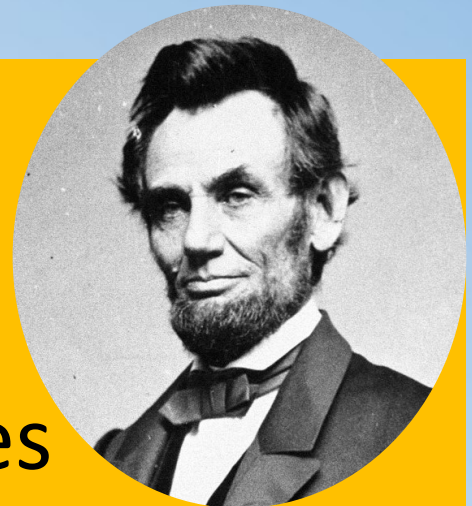
18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:18)

19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.
(Romans 14:19)

"The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend."

- Abraham Lincoln

16th President of United States



4. Peace With Others - Settled

- **Proactive peace – sent forth as peacemakers**
 - ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)**



4. Peace With Others - Settled

"The greatest honour history can bestow is that of peacemaker."

President Theodore Roosevelt
26th President of United States



5. Peace Of God - Share

- **Peace of God is not to be contained, but to be shared out.**

19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)



5. Peace Of God - Share

Freely you have received, freely give. (Matthew 10:8)

- **Jesus Movement of the 1970s**
 - **Song writers**
 - **“Come Together” Musical (with Pat Boone)**
 - **“Freely, Freely” – 1972**

Jimmy Owens died on Nov 26, 2023, at the age of 93



Jim & Carol Owens





SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH





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Is Your All on the Altar?

You have longed for sweet peace, and for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently prayed;
But you cannot have rest, or be perfectly blessed,
Until all on the altar is laid.

Would you walk with the Lord, In the light of His word,
And have peace and contentment always?
You must do His sweet will, to be free from all ill,
On the altar your all you must lay.

Oh, we never can know what the Lord will bestow
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,
Til our body and soul He doth fully control,
And our all on the altar is laid.

Who can tell all the love He will send from above,
And how happy our hearts will be made;
Of our fellowship sweet we shall share at His feet,
When our all on the altar is laid.

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the spirit control?
You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.

—Elisha A. Hoffman, 1900



Is Your All on the Altar?

You have longed for sweet peace, and for faith

And have earnestly, fervently prayed

But you cannot have rest

Until

Woe

**Do you long for SWEET PEACE
and for FAITH to increase?**

control,
is laid.

the love He will send from above,
how happy our hearts will be made;
of our fellowship sweet we shall share at His feet,
When our all on the altar is laid.

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the spirit control?
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1. You have longed for sweet peace,
And for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently prayed.
But you cannot have rest,
Or be perfectly blest,
Until all on the altar is laid.

2. Would you walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
And have peace and contentment alway?
You must do His sweet will
To be free from all ill—
On the altar your all you must lay.

Refrain:

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest,
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.

3. Oh, we never can know
What the Lord will bestow
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,
Till our body and soul
He doth fully control,
And our all on the altar is laid.

4. Who can tell all the love
He will send from above,
And how happy our hearts will be made,
Of the fellowship sweet
We shall share at His feet
When our all on the altar is laid!

Refrain:

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest,
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.