

6 December 2015 – 2 Advent.

Readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6.

INTRO: Luke 2:14, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Series: *Thirsting for God*. Last Sunday, *Hope...* Today, *Peace...*



## I. PEACE WITH GOD.

Jeremiah 6:14, “They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.”

What is the “wound of my people”? Romans 3:23, 6:23.

Luke 2:14, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” “With whom is God pleased?”

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

Augustine, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”



## II. PEACE WITH OURSELVES.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10, “For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 4:4, “I am conscious of nothing/not aware of anything against myself, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.”

James 5:16, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

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

Celtic spirituality in an Australian Landscape (Simpson & Lyons-Lee), “Each person and community has wounds caused by abuse, neglect or selfishness. Healing is possible. Healing is a process...

First, as we become more aware of the wholeness that Jesus wants for us all, we visit broken bits of our lives that have lain buried and unattended... We bring these into the light, perhaps with our soul friend (“spiritual mentor, personal trainer”). We invite Divine Love into our wounded parts.” – p. 66.

“Show Me” T.E.C. 1985.



A flower is stuck in a bullet hole in the outside wall of the Café Carillon

### III. PEACE WITH OTHERS.

**Matthew 5:9**, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

**John 20:21**, “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’”

**Matthew 10:16**, “Behold, I am sending you out **as sheep** in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

**The Comforter. John 20:22**, “And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘**Receive the Holy Spirit.**’”

**The Greater. 1 John 4:4**, “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

**The Greatest. John 10:29**, “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can **snatch** them out of my Father’s hand.”

**Romans 12:18**, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, **live peaceably with all.**”

*Up*, Olly Murs and Demi Lovato. Martin Luther King Jr. Paris.

**CONCLUSION**: Learn to stand and withstand. **Ephesians 6:12-15**, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm. Stand therefore**, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.**”