

Compel us to Love | A Lectionary Guide for the Second Sunday of Advent | Isaiah 11:1-10

Lectionary Year A: December 4, 2016

Text: Isaiah 11:1-10, *NRSV*

The Peaceful Kingdom

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hymns

O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines- UMH 729

*O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May the swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.*

*Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

They'll Know we are Christians by our Love- The Faith We Sing #2223

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love*

By our love, by our love

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love*

By our love, by our love

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
They will know we are Christians by our love*

*Love is patient, love is kind
Never boasts, not full of pride
Always hopes, always trusts
The evidence of Christ in us*

Help us Accept Each Other- UMH 560

*1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.*

*2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may be come.*

*3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.*

*4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!*

Litanies

1. *Call to Worship Based on Isaiah 11:1-10*
by the Rev. Nathan Decker

We come to worship the coming King. The One who was and is and is to come!
**Robed in Justice, carrying equity in his heart,
Righteousness is a belt around his waist, faithfulness in the clasps of his
sandals.**

We have prepared ourselves for worship.

We intend to do no harm; to love our neighbors and to stay in love with God!

We look forward to the Reign of the coming King!

**The wolves will walk with the lambs; the leopards skip with the kids;
and the calves will be friends with the lion cubs.**

Peace will come through the root of Jesse, and we will abide with the King!

Source: <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/call-to-worship-based-on-isaiah-111-10>

2. *Call to Worship #2:*

L: Get ready, people of God! The time of hope and peace is at hand.

P: **We are called to action rather than reaction.**

L: Open your hearts to God's word and God's will.

P: **Help us to be workers for God rather than observers.**

L: Come, draw near to God in faith.

P: **Let us prepare our hearts to receive the wondrous gifts of God. AMEN.**

Source: <http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4432/worship-connection-december-4-2016>

3. *Advent wreath meditation- Second Sunday of Advent:*

Reading of the text: Isaiah 11:1-10

Leader: The word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

[Light the first candle.]

Because our God is a God of justice, we too are a people of justice, and inequality will not rule our land. The poor will live with the rich, the adult will learn from the child, and God's provision will be enough. We light this candle today to provide a reminder that even a small flame is enough to cast light all around it—assurance that our work for justice can speak with the voice of God.

[Light the second candle.]

Leader: And so we offer this mysterious prayer:

ALL: **Lord Jesus, quickly come.**

Source: <http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4432/worship-connection-december-4-2016>

4. *Responsive reading about racism and reconciliation:*

Gracious God, we thank you for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth and for creating all the wonderful diversity of cultures.

Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us.

Forgive those of us who have been silent and apathetic in the face of racial intolerance and bigotry, both overt and subtle, public and private.

And take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts.

Break down the walls which separate us.

And help us to find that unity which is the fruit of righteousness and which will enable us to become your beloved community.

Empower us to speak boldly for justice and truth and help us to deal with one another without hatred or bitterness, working together with mutual forbearance and respect.

And work through our struggles and confusion to accomplish your purposes. Amen.

Source: Adapted from "Sabbath of Support in Opposition to racism," www.religioustolerance.org

5. *Responsive Reading- "Lord, Teach Us"*

Lord, so many people are in pain.
Teach us the way to peace.

When people around us don't agree and think differently,
Lord, teach us to listen and understand.

When we see people getting hurt,
Lord, teach us to speak up.

When we see people who are hungry and poor,
Lord, teach us to give to them like you give to us.

When we see people treated poorly because of their difference,
Lord, teach us to be an example of love.

When we see war and conflict around the world or close at home,
Lord, teach us how to make a difference and bring peace.

When we see pain,
Lord, teach us to bring healing.

In all that we are and all that we do,
Lord, teach to live together in community in the humility of your sacrificial love.

Source: adapted from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, "Lord, Teach Us," at
www.elca.org/nonviolence/worship.html#Prayers

Prayers

1. Catholic Prayer for Justice

Dear friends,
in this preparation for Christmas, now at hand,
the Church's prayer for the fulfillment of the hopes
of peace, salvation and justice which the world today urgently needs
become more intense.

Let us ask God
to grant that violence be overcome by the power of love,
that opposition give way to reconciliation

and that the desire to oppress be transformed
into the desire for forgiveness, justice and peace...

May peace be in our hearts
so that they are open to the action of God's grace...

May all members of the family community,
especially children, the elderly, the weakest,
feel the warmth of this feast,
and may it extend subsequently to all the days in the year.

Amen.

-Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, Dec. 19, 2007

Source: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-for-justice.cfm>

2. Prayers from the Church of England

For the peace of the world:

Almighty God,
from whom all thought of truth and peace proceed:
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth
that in tranquility your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth be filled with your knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer for peace in our communities:

Gracious God,
We pray for peace in our communities this day.
We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,
And those who work to uphold law and justice.
We pray for an end to fear,
For comfort and support to those who suffer.
For calm in our streets and cities,
That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.
In your mercy, hear our prayers,
now and always. **Amen**

For peace and justice

God our deliverer,
defender of the poor and needy;
when the foundations of the earth are shaking,

give strength to your people to uphold justice and fight all wrong, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- David Stancliffe (1942-)

Source: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-for-peace.aspx>

3. From the Book of Common Prayer (according to the use of the Episcopal Church)

For the Human Family:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Peace:

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light *riseth* up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what *thou wouldst* have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in *thy* light we may see

light, and in *thy* straight path may not stumble; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Source: <http://www.bcponline.org/Misc/Prayers.html>

4. South African prayer for peace

Lord, in penitence
I offer you my own mixed up anger,
that it, with theirs, may be taken up into you redemptive will
in which the clash between anger and fear,
oppressed and oppressor,
can give way,
to the incomprehensible action of love
bringing about reconciliation and healing
the embrace of the other
the alien
the enemy
creating the festival of shalom
in which the wolf shall lie down with the lamb
and the whole of life on earth shall rejoice
in the splendor of your glory.

Source: <http://overcomingviolence.org/en/decade-to-overcome-violence/about-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for/resources/prayers-2005.html>

5. Prayer for Peace (from the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas)

Loving God, you inspire us with love for all persons and concern for the well-being of all creation.

Give us today the strength and courage to transform the compassion of our hearts into acts of peace, mercy, and justice.

Forgive us for the arrogance that leads to moral blindness, for desires for vengeance and retaliation, and for willingness to sacrifice others for our own security and avarice.

Help us to renounce all forms of violence: prejudice, unfair allegations, intolerance, and injury.

Give us the courage to resist threatening postures, calls to arms, mobilization of troops and weapons, and all actions that threaten the lives and livelihoods of innocent people.

Empower us to live out the caring presence of the merciful and generous persons we claim to be.

Make us channels of your peace, bearers of healing, women and men who hear and respond with alacrity to pleas for justice in our world.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus who came among us to show us the way.

Source: <http://ploughshares.ca/publications/worship-resources/prayers-for-peace/>

6. Community Prayer- “Teach Us to Trust”

Faithful God, teach us to trust in you and to die to our own wills so that we might become alive in your holy will. Transform the way we think and do not let us be conformed to the world or deceived by our own imaginations. Help us to understand that it is in embracing the cross of Christ—in emptying ourselves towards you, O God, and towards others—that our true selves are to be found. Let us turn to the other and pour ourselves out towards them in the sure knowledge that nothing will be lost. Rather, we fill up the cup of your love and find community. Teach us to trust you, O God, and teach us to love our neighbors as you have loved us. Amen.

Source: adapted from “Commentary” at <http://fatherstephen.wordpress.com/2007/02/19/> and www.ourmeetinghouse.org/sermons/sermon367.html

7. Prayer of Confession

Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have blocked your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

Source: <http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4432/worship-connection-december-4-2016>

8. Prayer in Times of Violence and Fear:

Almighty, all-merciful God,
through Christ Jesus you have taught us to love one another,
to love our neighbors as ourselves,
and even to love our enemies.
In times of violence and fear,
let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,
so that we may not be overcome with evil
but overcome evil with good.
Help us to see each person in light of the love and grace
you have shown us in Christ.
Put away the nightmares of terror
and awaken us to the dawning of your new creation.
Establish among us a future where peace reigns,
justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled.
We ask these things in the name
and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: From a collection of *Prayers for Times of National and International Crisis and Tragedy*
Posted on the [PCUSA website](#)

9. Closing prayers/blessings:

Closing Prayer: Charge our lives and our churches with the power of your peace, O God. Overcome our fears and self-deceptions with the promise of your presence. Make

us signs of your generosity and justice. Light us each day with hope, we pray, so that we may walk in your truth and be love in your Name. Amen.

Blessing:

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us;
May the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us;
And may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us;
from now into eternity.

Amen.

2003 © Clare McBeath

Source: <http://overcomingviolence.org/en/decade-to-overcome-violence/about-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for/resources/prayers-2004.html>

Sermon Resources:

“A new world is coming. The scripture lessons for today each carry a theme of promise and hope. In Isaiah a healthy shoot emerges from the people who were seemingly cut dry by political upheaval, and there is hope of a new ruler to come. In his letter to the Romans, Paul gives hope to the Gentiles who will be grafted onto God’s covenant people through Christ. Matthew’s gospel reveals the radical message of John the Baptist, who calls people to repentance and offers baptism as a sign of cleansing and new life.”-

<https://chapel.duke.edu/sites/default/files/12-08-13.pdf>

1. Commentary on Isaiah 11:1-10 by Anatheia Portier-Young
https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=832
2. “Stumped”, Sermon on Isaiah 11:1-10 by Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, Duke Chapel
<https://chapel.duke.edu/sites/default/files/Stumped.pdf>
3. “Who’s Side are you on?”, Sermon on Psalm 72 by Rev. Bruce Pucket, Duke Chapel
<https://chapel.duke.edu/sites/default/files/Puckett%2001-04-15.pdf>

Interfaith Resources:

Interfaith quotes on the golden rule and peace:

<http://www.uri.org/wihw>

“Getting to Know Neighbors of Other Faiths: A Theological Rationale for Interfaith Relationships”, National Council of Churches

<http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/shared-ministry/interfaith/neighbors3.pdf>

Eternal God

Save us from weak resignation to violence

Teach us that restraint is the highest expression of power

That thoughtfulness and tenderness are marks of the strong.

Help us to love our enemies

Not by countenancing their sins,

But by remembering our own

And may we never for a moment forget

That they are fed by the same food,

Hurt by the same weapons,

Have children for whom they have the same high hopes as we do.

Grant us the ability

To find joy and strength not in the strident call to arms

To grasp our fellow creatures

In the striving for justice and truth.

~ prepared by a Christian, a Jew and a Muslim, August 1990. In A Collection of Prayers for Peace, 2005

Source: <http://ploughshares.ca/publications/worship-resources/interfaith-resources/>

News and Post-Election Faith Responses:

Message from the president of Biola University, "Lovekindness: A Post-Election Path for Christians in America"

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/november/post-election-path-for-christians-in-america.html>

Message from the Episcopal Diocese of New York

<https://www.diocesenyn.org/we-pray-bishop-dietsche-writes-in-a-letter-to-the-diocese-that-god-grace-mr-trump-with-the-wisdom-and-courage-to-rise-to-the-high-calling-of-his-office-as-we-will-also-pray-that-he-be-imbu/>

"A Post-Election Confession" by Paul Atwater, Senior Pastor, North River Community Church

<http://leadthemhome.org/2016/11/post-election-confession.html>

Madison, WI- How faith communities are reaching out across religious divides:

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/madison-faith-communities-send-flowers-and-encouragement-to-calm-post/article_5cebe311-668a-5163-b788-4bfca9b41ce6.html

Greensboro, NC- “After the Election Can We Come Together?”

http://www.greensboro.com/opinion/columns/jeff-paschal-after-the-election-can-we-come-together/article_9382c9e1-9201-5d98-9543-88bec01e21c6.html

See Also:

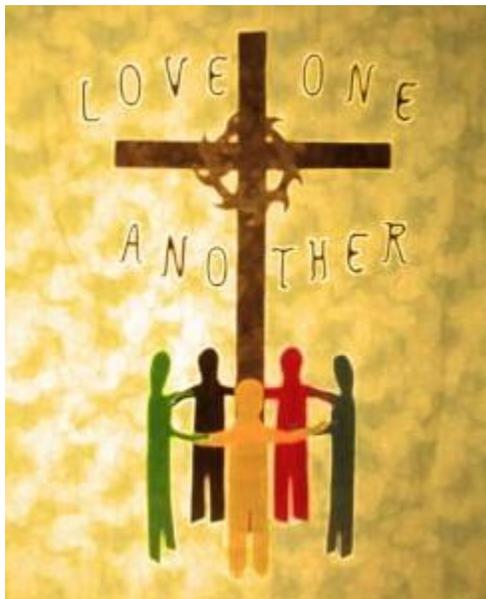
North Carolina Council of Churches’ Advent Guide for Lectionary Year A:

<https://www.ncchurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Advent-Guide-2016-Final.pdf>

The National Council of Church’s 21st Century social creed:

<http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/christian-unity/a-21st-century-social-creed/>

Images:



Source: http://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/worship_resources/love-one-another/

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