

Tuesday, December 20th, Day 24 – John Cundiff

(Welcome)

Hello, and welcome to Vespers for the Advent season. My name is John Cundiff, and today is the 24th day of Advent, Tuesday, December 20th.

(Centering)

As we begin our time of reflection and devotion, let's take a moment to center ourselves.

Make sure other distractions are quieted for the next few minutes.

If possible, bring your body to complete rest.

As you become aware of the stillness around you, focus on your breathing as we inhale and exhale slowly together.

Breathe in, exhale.

Breathe in, exhale.

Breathe in, exhale.

(Responsive Prayer)

As we continue in prayer together, speak the words of this responsive prayer.

LEADER – God of love

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your steadfastness

LEADER – Christ of hope

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your promises

LEADER – Spirit of peace

RESPONSE – May this season remind us of your comfort

LEADER – As it was from the beginning,

RESPONSE – So now, may the joy of this season burn in our hearts

TOGETHER – Amen

(Lectio Divina)

For the next few moments, let's dwell in God's Word.

Our reading today comes from the Psalms, Chapter 29.

I will read the passage through 3 times - each time with a different way for you to experience the scripture.

(1st Reading)

Hear the Word of God

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
- 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl
and strips the forest bare,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
- 11 May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

(After 1st Reading Prompt)

As we read through the 2nd time, take notice of what word or phrase stands out to you and hold onto it. If you would like to write your reflections down or tell someone else your findings, feel free to pause the video after this 2nd reading.

Passage Repeated

(After 2nd Reading Prompt)

If a word or phrase caught your attention, what, if anything, do you sense God saying to you about the PEACE that Advent brings? Listen for that invitation during this final reading. If you would like to write your reflections down or tell someone else your findings, feel free to pause the video after this 3rd reading.

Passage Repeated

(After 3rd Reading Prompt)

As we conclude this time of reading together, let me offer these questions as a challenge to be aware of as you go about your Advent season:

Have you even encountered great peace in the face of something overwhelming?

What promises of PEACE does Advent bring?

(Benediction)

Thank you for spending time with us today. As you continue this week, may the PEACE of the Advent resound in every part of your life. If you will, speak these words with me as we conclude:

ALL – Lord of hosts,
Who breathed the words of creation and
spoke the Word of the Incarnation
Ignite our imaginations
Fill us with awe and wonder
Prepare the way for the Messiah, within and without
For unto us, a Child is born
Unto us, Emmanuel is given
Bring us Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace
As we receive, once again, Your greatest gift to the world
Amen, and amen

(Conclusion)

Join us every day of Advent for a time of reflection and devotion.

May God go with you through this season of PEACE.
Blessings, dearly beloved.