

Sermon Title: "Peace in Troubled Times"

Series: SoCal Christmas: Where Heaven Meets the Coast

Text: Luke 2:8-14-25

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2025

Luke 2:13-14, "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Truth for Today:

God's peace is the <u>antidote</u> to <u>overwhelm</u>.

• God's peace comes through <u>surrender</u>, not <u>self</u>-reliance.

• God's peace is **here** because He came **near**.

Bottom Line: Peace is not found in the absence of problems, but in the presence of Christ.

- I. Peace is God's **plan** for an **anxious** world.
 - Anxiety is assuming <u>responsibility</u> for things God never intended you to carry.

Anxiety is the misuse of <u>imagination</u>.

 "Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its <u>troubles</u>; it empties today of its <u>strength</u>." — Corrie Ten Boom

Reflection: What do you do when you feel anxious about your world?



II. Peace is something we **receive**, not something we **achieve**.

• Anything that **costs** you your peace is too expensive.

Peace doesn't come by trying to <u>fix</u> everything <u>around</u> you, but by <u>surrendering</u> everything <u>within</u> you.

• If peace depended on better <u>circumstances</u>, Christ would have never **come** into the world.

Reflection: What problem(s) have you been trying to resolve in your own **strength** that you need to **surrender** to Christ today?

III. Peace is a **Person**.

- God's solution for an ugly world was not <u>distance</u>, but <u>presence</u>.
- Peace comes from <u>proximity</u> to Jesus, not the <u>perfection</u> of your circumstances.
- "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 <u>Peace</u>." Isaiah 9:6

Reflection: How can you practice God's presence in the midst of the uncertainty in your life?

Application:

- 1. Name the thing(s) you're **carrying** that are beyond your **control**.
- 2. Replace <u>anxious</u> imagination with <u>surrendered</u> prayer.
- 3. Build a consistent daily **<u>practice</u>** to help you draw <u>**near**</u> to the Prince of Peace.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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