



Sermon: The Path of Peace

Scripture: Luke 1:76-79; Isaiah 26:3; Ephesians 2:13-18; John 16:33

Big Idea: *Christ's coming brings peace to troubled hearts and divided people.*

Key Thought: *Peace is not the absence of struggle - it is the presence of Jesus.*

INTRODUCTION:

Advent reminds us that peace is not something we achieve but Someone we receive. Jesus, the "Sunrise from heaven," enters our darkness not to remove every struggle but to transform us through His presence. True biblical peace - *shalom* - is wholeness, harmony, restored relationship, and the deep assurance that God is near. Scripture reveals that peace is **promised by God, practiced in our minds, shared in our relationships, lived out in community, and sustained through Christ's victory. Practicing His Presence is the Path of Peace.**

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The Promise of Peace - Peace Announced

Receive what Christ has already brought. (Luke 1:76-79)

2. The Practice of Peace - Peace Applied

Fix your mind where peace is found. (Isaiah 26:3)

3. The People of Peace - Peace Shared

Let Christ's peace flow outward from your life. (Ephesians 2:13-18)

4. The Pursuit of Peace - Peace Lived in Community

Build friendships that embody the Gospel. (Gal. 6:2; Heb. 10:24-25; John 15:15)

5. The Power of Peace - Peace Sustained

Stand in Christ's victory when trouble comes. (John 16:33)

Life Application Questions:

1. Peace Announced - Luke 1:76-79
How does knowing peace begins with God's mercy change the way you seek it?
2. Peace Applied - Isaiah 26:3
What thoughts most often steal your peace?
What would it look like for you to "fix your mind" on God this week?
3. Peace Shared - Ephesians 2:13-18
Is there a relationship in your life where God may be calling you to pursue peace or reconciliation?
What wall has Christ torn down in your life that you need to stop rebuilding?
4. Peace in Community - Gal. 6:2; Heb. 10:24-25
Are you experiencing peace *with* others or mostly practicing faith alone?
Who is God calling you to pursue, befriend, or encourage this week?
5. Peace Sustained - John 16:33
What trouble or trial are you currently facing?
How does Christ's declaration, "*I have overcome the world,*" meet you there today?