

KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH (UCC)

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Sermon: **“Where Do We Find Peace When We Are Not At Peace?”**

by Pastor Chris Eng

Lectionary Text for Advent 2: Isaiah 11: 1 - 10, N.R.S.V.

On this 2nd Sunday of Advent, the candle of Peace is lit. Myra Yamada 's family sings the song, “Let There Be Peace On Earth” every Christmas at Kawaiaha'o church where both grandsons will sing in the Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus on December 13 at 7 p.m. She added, *“This song fills your heart with a lot of emotion and I think it may be a good song for our church to learn.”* The NRSV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible says *“The Peaceful Kingdom is an Akkadian ideal not only people but also animals and plants will benefit in a text known as the Merodach (Marduk) Prophecy.”* It is used here to introduce the reign of Jesse, David's father in the charismatic tradition of “the Spirit of the Lord” (Yahweh). As we focus on the Peace of Christ, in our country and in the world there is very little peace. When we ask someone, how they are, most will say *“I'm fine or there's really great things happening in my life.”* But sometimes, we're not okay or we have family or friends going through challenging times.

1. **No Shame in Getting Help.** At a personal or individual level, Prayer is the first thing we turn to. Reading HMSA's Island Scene Summer 2025 magazine, the words, *“Sadness, Anxiety, Loneliness, Irritability”* stood out. We could just be having a bad day but if signs persist for more than a few weeks or we're having trouble focusing on daily life functions or isolating from family and friends, behavioral health treatment by seeing a therapist is needed. We need to ask our primary care provider (PCP) about any mental health issues we are experiencing. This intervention in time, should result in our having peace of mind.

2. **“An Exercise in Uncertainty: a Memoir of Illness & Hope.”** Swago Jackson, my brother-in-law was on the KCC Prayer List. Having a diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma that required surgery relates to this book my wife Cheri discovered about the author Jonathan Gluck who had 18 months to live, diagnosed with MM describing his journey some 20 years later. It reminded me of Na Anela I Ka Hana A Ke Akua, a wellness journey support group here at KCC. I clicked on a message given last year by Pie Pie Wong on YouTube as she described multiple challenges and how she has managed to face each one, finding the support she needed, even

to the present day. Inspiring! Hopefully we can find support if we have pain or an illness.

3. **“The Spirit of the Lord will arise from the lineage of Jesse** (King David’s father)...the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord” (Isaiah 11: 1 - 3). Every Christmas Eve for 10 years (2005 - 2015), Isaiah 9: 6 was read at Waiokeola Congregational Church across Kahala Mall. *“For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* Every Sunday, I arrived early for worship and greeting those who were there, I’d ask, *“What can I pray for you about”* (we had a prayer group in my study before service). Charlie Fong who resided at Arcadia with his wife Helen always asked that there would be Peace in the World. As we consider the violence, the conflicts, the wars and death throughout this world, finding peace is not a simple matter. It is complicated simply by those in power where nations go to war with other nations. For this reason, I believe that the Peace that Christ gives is on a personal level. As it is with illness and disease, God’s intervention to make people work for peace is a challenge because of our humanity and free will to decide our fate.

Conclusion: As we eat the Bread symbolizing the Body of Christ, we can pray for healing in our physical bodies. As we drink the Grape Juice symbolizing Christ’s Blood poured out for us, our sins are forgiven and we should embrace forgiveness in our relationships: forgiving others and receiving forgiveness. Each first Sunday of the month, we can pray for peace when we are not at peace. Yes, the Lord’s Supper can bring us peace when we are not at peace.