

## PEACE

I had the opportunity to attend a classical piano recital at UCO this week. I couldn't help but marvel at how the composer's creation could be perfectly preserved reproduced several hundred years later. Thousands (maybe millions) of notes came together in one accord and in singleness of purpose to achieve the harmonies, evoke emotion and recreate the beauty he originally intended. Like beautiful music, peace is not easy to achieve. Bringing the composer's music to life requires intentionality. I think this is a bit how God intends His gift of Peace to be reproduced in us.

Bringing peace to earth was and is an integral part of Jesus' primary mission for mankind. When Jesus was born, the angels proclaimed "peace on earth to those on whom His favor rests" ( Lk 2:14) Then, before he was crucified, Jesus comforted his disciples by saying "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." (John 14:27) Peace is the beginning and the end of God's purpose in Christ for each of us. Peace with God. Peace within ourselves. Peace between all people.

The Psalmist told us to "seek peace and pursue it" Ps 34:14

Peter echos this truth for the early Church and adds "whoever would love life and see good days" should embark on this quest for peace.( 1Pet 3:10-11 ) It is apparent that in this fallen world, peace is an illusive thing. We must be diligent about our desire for it, we must search for it, and when we catch a glimpse, we must follow after it.

Every good quest requires a starting place and a singleness of purpose. CS Lewis said "God cannot give us peace and happiness apart from Himself because there is no such thing". Christ himself is the source and the beginning of our search for peace.

We have families coming to our city and perhaps to our church who undoubtedly know the preciousness of peace. They have risked more than we can imagine to seek peace for their families. I think we can and will learn much from them. We pray they will find peace and happiness here in their new home.

My prayer for them and for all of us is that we find and recreate the beautiful music of perfect peace and harmony our creator intended for us.

( 2 These 3:16)

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."