

When I was asked to write for the “peace” portion of advent, I thought to myself, “how am I going to do this? I am not feeling at peace right now.” Instead of saying no, I decided to take that as a sign from God to pray and remind myself of His peace. So, here’s my heart, church. As a teacher and an enneagram nine, my whole life is centered around peace. Specifically, creating peace for others and fighting for inner peace for myself. The past few years have been an exhausting challenge to find the peace I long for. With a pandemic, mass shootings, political distress, war, and many personal challenges, I often find myself wanting to shut down. Everything feels overwhelming, hopeless, and definitely not filled with peace. I think to myself, “I can’t do anything to help, so why try?”

I. That’s the issue. “I” cannot do anything on my own. “I” am not the one to fix everything. “I” am not the one to provide peace for all. To be honest, I struggle so much with this concept. I want to help and fix everything, but again, I am not the provider of peace. While praying over this topic and reading verses on peace, I was reminded the peace I long for is not an earthly peace, but a Heavenly one. I’m thankful for Jesus’ words and promise in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” How amazing is it that the Spirit lives in us and we are provided with this heavenly peace? We still need to do our part in helping others, but we can rest in the fact that God has gone before us and is leading us every step of the way. Lastly, as a music teacher and a worship leader, I had to also dig into the well-known song, “Silent Night”. We sing this song often, but when do we really think about the meaning of it? As I read through these lyrics, the phrase “sleep in heavenly peace” obviously stuck out. Jesus, the Son of God, who had just taken on flesh and was born into a broken world, is sleeping. Not just sleeping, but sleeping in heavenly peace. He is confident in where his peace comes from and is, then, able to go out into the world to work towards peace for all. Wow. Church, I pray we are able to be like Jesus - keeping our eyes and hearts pointed toward the heavenly peace as we continue to work towards peace on earth.

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