

Date : 21st December 2025
Theme : Christmas
Topic : Peace on Earth
Passage : Luke 2:1–20
Key Verse : **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests. (Luke 2:14)**

Two thousand years ago, on an ordinary night in Bethlehem, heaven broke into the darkness of our world. Angels appeared to trembling shepherds and declared, “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...*” That word **peace** is central to the Christmas message.

The world around us seems anything but peaceful. Wars and conflicts fill our headlines. Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Iran — nations in turmoil. Closer to home, some of us face storms no less real: marriages under tension, families not speaking, financial strain, workplace stress, a frightening medical report. Fear and anxiety about the future, ongoing conflict or unforgiveness toward others, and constant exposure to a troubled world marked by loss, injustice, and uncertainty also disturb our inner rest.

And yet *right into* a world like ours, God sent us this message, “peace to those on whom His favour rests.” Is such peace really possible?

This brings us to two important questions we must wrestle with today:

- (1) How does this peace look like?
- (2) How can we experience this peace in our lives?

1) How does this peace look like?

1a) Peace with God (Peace begins with a Peacemaker)

Luke 2:11 — A Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord...

- The Christmas story began with a time of discomfort (having to journey back to hometown in heavily pregnant), stress (no available room to stay), rejection (being pregnant without being married).
- The angels did not announce a peace strategy or a solution to the stressful situation. The angels announced a Savior to a group of shepherds who were considered lowly in society status.
- Luke 2 shows that peace does not begin with perfect circumstances. Peace begins with a person, the peacemaker—Jesus.
 - The Christ Messiah called the “Prince of Peace” had been prophesied 700 years earlier. (*Isaiah 9:6 — For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.....And he will be called..... Prince of Peace.*)
- Before peace can fill the earth, it must start with peace between God and humans.
 - We are in enmity with God. Our sin has separated us from God. Jesus came to reconcile us to God. (*Romans 5:1 — We have peace with God because of what Jesus has done for us.*)
 - Jesus came to be the mediator (peacemaker) between God and man. There can be no peace without a mediator. (*1 Timothy 3:5 — For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.*)

1b) Peace of God (Peace offers by the Prince of Peace)

Luke 2:17 — When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

- The shepherds didn’t share because they were instructed to—they shared because they were changed.
 - When they saw Jesus, they encountered the peace of God, and peace naturally overflowed into proclamation.
 - What they felt was not relief from circumstances, but assurance in the presence of Christ.

- When we are reconciled to God, something changes inside us. (*Philippians 4:7 — And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*)
 - It says God’s peace guards us. This peace: is not the absence of trouble, is not pretending everything is fine. Jesus never promised a trouble-free life. It is a deep assurance that God is present, sovereign, and faithful—even in the storm.
- This is the peace of God given to us. (*John 14:27 — Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*)
 - The world’s peace depends on the situation improving. Jesus’ peace remains even when they do not. It is the peace of God—given by the Prince of Peace—to guard our hearts, steady our minds, and carry us through every season.
- The peace of God meets us differently depending on the condition of our hearts.
 - Broken heart → comforting peace. (*Psalms 147:3*)
 - Confused heart → guiding peace. (*Proverbs 3:5–6*)
 - Ashamed heart → forgiving peace. (*1 John 1:9*)
 - Worried heart → confident peace. (*Philippians 4:6–7*)

1c) Peace with others (Peace draws people together)

- When we draw closer to God, it not only changes our hearts—it transforms our relationships. The opposite is also true: when we drift from God, relationships begin to break down.
 - This is why Scripture consistently shows that closeness to God leads to closeness with one another, especially in our homes and marriages.
- Jesus not only brings peace vertically – with God, but peace horizontally – with people. (*Proverbs 16:7 — When a person’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies live at peace with him.*)
 - The presence of Christ shapes how we love, forgive, and walk with one another. When Christ is at the centre, peace begins to flow—not only within us, but between us.
 - This peace looks like choosing forgiveness instead of resentment, humility instead of pride, and reconciliation instead of withdrawal.

2) How can we experience this peace in our lives?

Come to Jesus personally (because Peace is a person)

(*Luke 2:14 — peace on earth to those on whom His favor rests*)

- Peace is not found in a method, mindset, or moment—peace is found in a Person.
- The angels did not announce a solution to life’s problems; they announced a Savior.
- The deepest reason we lack peace is not just stress, circumstances, or problems—it is disconnection from God, the One who created us but because of sin, humanity was separated from God.
- Peace begins when we stop keeping Jesus at a distance and come to Him personally and reconcile with Him. When reconciliation happens, the hostility ends.
- Like any gift, peace must be accepted; it cannot be earned or forced.
- Like the shepherds, peace starts when we go to Jesus and see Him for ourselves. (*Luke 2:16 — “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened.”*)
- Jesus invites us to come to Him. (*Matthew 11:28–30 — Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. or my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*)

Application

- 1) Where am I trying to find peace apart from Jesus?
- 2) What do I need to bring to Him today?