



Sermon Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you"*? How does this contrast with the world's version of peace, both then and now?
2. In what ways can becoming a peacemaker today make someone a "troublemaker"? Can you think of examples from your own life or current events?
3. How can we discern when our comfort or lifestyle is unintentionally contributing to injustice or preventing God's peace from flourishing?
4. How do you think faith communities can effectively balance celebration of progress with accountability for global injustices?
5. What part of Liz Cooledge Jenkins' poem (below) stood out most to you, and how does it shape your understanding of peace, especially in times of fatigue, failure, or frustration?

God,

Sometimes we have no idea what peace would mean.

It's all too difficult.

Everything in us is tired.

Everything in us has tried and feels like we have failed.

God, we could use some encouragement.

The cry "peace on earth" sounds so faint, so strange.

There is only so much in our power.

Still, we pray for peace.

Peace to our souls. Sometimes it is enough to survive.

Peace to our minds. You do not need to be perfect.

Peace to our hearts. Be kind to yourself, and feel all your feelings.

Peace to our communities. For everyone to have enough.

Peace to our world. For hands outstretched in kindness across arbitrary borders.

For peace that comes through truth-telling. There is no shortcut.

For peace that comes through mercy. We all need it.

For peace that comes through repentance. There is no peace while oppression continues.

For peace that comes through change. So much change.

Peace, this kind of peace, to our friendships, families, neighbourhoods, churches, cities, countries.

You, the peace-bringer, the peace-maker.

Blessed are you.

Amen.