

## True Peace > Isaiah 11:1-16

**11:1-5** The Peace-giver and His character: both wise and righteous because He fears the Lord.

**11:6-9** Peace on earth – amongst not only the created animal kingdom, but people too; and in a way not seen since the Garden of Eden.

**11:10-16** Peace amongst men – God’s people reunited; their enemies defeated. And all of this accomplished by God’s strong hand and miraculous power.

**Context:** The bulk of **chapter 10** taught us that God is sovereignly and completely in control and that He will preserve His people. This will happen even though everything visible would seem to indicate otherwise.

**Aim:** God’s people must see how the Messiah will bring about peace on earth and a kingdom of justice.

**Gospel:** Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace – not only here on earth, but between God and man. This picture of peace isn’t just a snapshot of what things looked like in Eden, but instead it is also a spiritual peace that all who trust in the Lord shall enjoy forever.

**Applications:** Wisdom and righteousness comes from fearing the Lord – Jesus does this perfectly and calls us to fear likewise. How? By knowing what He has said, believing what the Scriptures say about the forgiveness offered by Christ’s sacrifice, and living as the Lord requires of His disciples – not perfectly, but by faith-filled action upon what He has taught.

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Announcements**

It might seem a long ways off, but we are coming to the end of the year which also means the end of our current Bible reading program. If you took part – even if you didn't get to all the readings – and want to give feedback, we have a response form sitting on the information table that you are encouraged to fill out and place in the offering box. Feedback from it will help to determine what our 2021 Bible Reading Plan will look like.

Speaking of end of the year things, Advent is coming up and will start on November 29. If you or your family is interested in taking part by giving a Scripture reading during the service on any of the four Sundays, then please let the office know.

For those of you who are helping serve at the Food Pantry or who are making use of it, note that due to when Thanksgiving falls this month, we will be having it a week early. That means this week, Tuesday and Wednesday is our monthly food pantry. We will continue to run the pantry in the entryway as we have been so that we can do our best to social distance and keep everyone healthy.

Speaking of health, the recent announcement by Governor Reynolds is an important one. If you haven't heard already, face coverings are required in many places and situations all throughout Iowa at this point. Schools and churches are the two exceptions that she gave. So in that vein, the church leadership wants to highlight and underline again that we strongly recommend wearing face coverings while you are here in the building. Similarly, we've been doing a good job at giving everyone space which I know is frustrating and awkward at times, but let's keep it up. And on that note, let me just say pastorally "well done." I realize all of these conditions and changes have been frustrating and draining at times; I fully recognize how different coming to church is these days. But you all have adjusted wonderfully. Our church has kept unified around Christ rather than fallen into the traps of disagreement all around us. So when I continue to call for patience, unity, and distancing, I don't want you to simply hear "try harder..." but also "we've been doing well, let's keep it up together..."

## **Prayer**

Father, if it weren't for your promises, we would have little reason to hope these days. Certainly, that is the struggle of many in our world with all of the problems from the economy, politics, Coronavirus, and unrest. Lord, would you be gracious to us as a nation? Would you give us grace and peace that we don't deserve? And what's more, would you continue to show your mercy to us as a congregation? Please spare us from this terrible virus and all that it entails – not because we've somehow earned your favor, but simply because you love to show grace and we desperately need it.

In all things, teach us to be grateful. Even if you have determined that we shall have more difficulties ahead, train our hearts and minds to trust you. For who else controls the stars, the weather, our very lives? Who else has promised to save us from the death that our sin deserves? Nobody else. Only you, Lord. And because of that rock-solid fact, we love you and we worship you. We thank you for your grace given to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And we aim to glorify you now and in the week to come. Amen.