

Dec 7/25 – Small Group Questions

“The Way of Peace”

1. What longings for peace do you experience most at this point in your life journey? (You could use the 5 layers of shalom as a framework: personal, communal/social, environmental, national/governance, peace with God.)
2. How do you usually handle those longings when they surface? (Do you name them, ignore them, pray about them, lament the gap, etc...)
3. In Isaiah 5:3 the people say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord... that he may teach us his ways.” What does this passage reveal about the relationship between God’s instruction and our transformation?
4. Isaiah 5:4 depicts a world where weapons are turned into farming tools—swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks. How does this vision of peace inform (or transform) our approach to the realities of violence, conflict, or division in our own communities or world? Where and how can we participate in God’s peacemaking work today?
5. Discuss the relation between our participation in peacemaking and the presence of Christ Himself as King Immanuel. How does the presence of the Prince of Peace, with us and active in the world by the Holy Spirit, posture us as we seek to walk in the way of peace?
6. The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (which we sang as a community on Sunday) is a thoughtful prayer that postures us both to receive and participate in the peace of Christ. Incorporate this prayer into your prayer time together as a group:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.