

Ministry of Encouragement

Peace on Earth!!

Luke 2:11-20

Albert Einstein once said, "Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order, in short of government." Thus, the government must act in a just way towards all people. We see real time acts of injustice via technology and then the powers that be rule in favor of the perpetrators. Alleged criminals have rights. We have to pray for peace and advocate for justice.

Jesus was born to bring peace on earth to those whom God's favor rests. God has favored the marginalized, the disenfranchised, and downtrodden. Our laws, ordinances, and statues must promote justice, fairness, and equality. The word peace implies just and friendly relations between countries and between people. This season has become commercialized and all about materialism. Jesus birth was about ushering in God's kingdom on earth. God's kingdom citizens abide by a different set of rules and God is in charge. We have come to understand that there will be no peace until justice rules and reigns. Martin Luther King, Jr said, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension it is the presence of justice."

In our text, the angels announced to the shepherds that the Messiah had come, the Savior of the world had been born in the town of David. The angels told the shepherds they would find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. "Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." [Luke 2:13-14 NIV] That was an announcement of great news that we all can use. The savior of the world has been born. Now the shepherds said to each other, let's go and see for ourselves what the Lord has told us. They found everything just as the angel of the Lord had said. The shepherds were so elated they went and told everyone that the Messiah has been born. All who heard what the shepherds said were amazed and overjoyed. The shepherds could not stop praising God for all that God had done. When the Lord comes into your life and speaks a word of good news go and tell. It is no secret what the Lord has done, is doing, and will do. He brought peace on earth to all who God's favor rests.

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

Prayer

Eternal God of the universe, we've gathered to praise and worship You. You are mighty and magnificent. We are aware that there will be no peace if justice does not prevail. O God, let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! Let peace and justice rule and reign. We pray that the leaders of this country would use wisdom and godly principles to govern. Forgive us for turning blind eyes and deaf ears to the plight of the less fortunate. Open our eyes and ears to the cries of those struggling for food and shelter. May we provide for the homeless and help them out of that abyss. Help us to be advocates for those in need of

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Pastoral Notes

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affordable healthcare, mental health care, and senior care. Grant the leadership wisdom in crafting answers and solutions to poverty. We thank you for Jesus bringing joy, peace, and eternal life. Bless us to tell the world about Your goodness and grace. May we extend that same grace and mercy to all people. This we pray in the name of Mary's baby, Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen!

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

Stewardship Moment

*¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV***

Each of us are called to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to our care. God gave us these bodies, minds, treasures, gifts, graces, and talents to manage. Let us be mindful of what God has given us and begin to take be better stewards. A steward manages the owner's possessions. We belong to God, the world and everything in it belongs to God. Our tasks is to manage it well. We are going to commence managing our bodies better. With faith, food, fitness, friends, and focus we are going to successfully better steward our bodies.

Join me on The Daniel Plan forty days to better health. You are welcome to begin studying The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life; The Daniel Plan Cookbook: Healthy Eating for Life, and The Daniel Plan: Jumpstart Guide written by Rick Warren, Daniel Amen, and Mark Hyman.

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

Sermon Scripture Reference

A Savior Is Born!!

Luke 2:11-20

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.