

mm Moment Ministries Advent Week Two

Christmas Eve Peace Prayer

*May the light we hold in our hands
Inspire a light we can hold in our hearts.
May we pledge ourselves to be
People of light and not darkness
May we be people of peace
In our souls...
In our homes...
In our relationships..
In our world.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.*

— Art Morgan

*(From Christmas Eve Prayers at the
Old World Deli and Pub 1983 – 2001)*

Morgan's Moment...

My granddad...
a gentle man with white hair...
and moustache fashionable in his day
but unusual in mine.
Before Pearl Harbor and the “big” war...
and called World War II
did what appeared foolish
to citizens of Seattle.
He would get on a street-car
carrying a sign
designed for picketing at the waterfront
He was protesting the sending
of American scrap iron to Japan
where he believed it was to be used
to build weapons.
Those who made profit
and others without vision
or fear for war
scorned and mocked
and labeled him...you know...like
“traitor to your land and race.”
Labels for those who walk for peace
in the world
rarely change.
I wonder if those who labeled him
“foolish” had other thoughts
after Pearl Harbor?

Art Morgan
“40 Moments of Peace” 1985

Peace

Second Week of Advent

*“They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying
‘Peace, peace’ when there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 8:11)*

I don’t find Jeremiah among the approved Christmas texts.
But I think he speaks a truth about peace.

For years of Christmas’s I have felt like a fraud when I read
the peace “prophecies” of Christmas, and the angels proclamation to
the shepherds about the birth of Jesus as heralding “Peace on earth,
good will to men.” Am I a bearer of fake news? Has there ever been a
Christmas when there was not war someplace?

So I stick with Jeremiah. There is no peace.

What is there for us to do when there is no peace?

1. Notice that Lasting Peace never happens

At least it never has. Only as a forlorn hope. Now what?

2. The battle is not done.

Every new coronation or inauguration brings hope that now we
have what we want. It is false hope. My experience in ministry
at the street level is that the same issues remain no matter what.
Those who worked for a safe and healthy planet still have that
work to do; those who care about homelessness, health care,
child care, racial equality (name your cause) nothing changes
very much. I’ve been through it for many election cycles.

Victory is an illusion. The battle is not done whether you win or
lose. I foolishly thought I would never see the swastika flag
again, or the Ku Klux Klan, to name only two. If anything there
are more battles to fight. So many battles still need soldiers.

3. No cause was ever achieved without struggle.

Every good cause I know has faced opposition. Even ministers must expect
opposition to new ideas and programs. Martin Luther King
faced his greatest opposition from Christian churches. Change
must expect resistance. Some resistance never gives up.
Struggles never end. When there is no peace is the time to enter
the battle.

The season darkens only a little longer. The day of light is coming.
The prince of peace is born. He comes to invite us to join his war.

— Art Morgan, December 8, 2016 Advent Two