

MM Advent Season Blue Sheet 2 — Peace



Morgan's Moment...

We've always done Advent...
in church or out
unorthodox and non-liturgical.
Like using Starbucks Advent trees
to mark off the days
and open a chocolate to share.
We've used two candles now...
Hope and Peace
tonight we'll start the Love week.
Anyone can make a little ritual...
the season of darkness
and winter solstice are universal.
We can anticipate Jesus' birth
or the joy of winter light
or the mystery of the holy in life.
We can read holy verses
or read a favorite
children's story.
We can sing a carol
or listen to others sing
in a seasonal concert.
We can sit by the fire
watch the flame
read some Christmas cards.
We can take photos
that speak of
Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.
My postings on Facebook...
a subtle daily nod
to the season of waiting.
A season made for waiting
is worth some special
moments.

Art Morgan

BOOK CORNER

The Advent theme for this past week was "Peace." The text for the week could be the words of Jeremiah 6:14 —
"They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying 'Peace, Peace' when there is no peace."
My comments follow.

THE SEASON FOR PIOUS LAMENTATION

Text for the Season:

*"They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying
'Peace, Peace' when there is no peace." (Jeremiah 6:14)*

My book for the past couple of weeks was:

THE UNITED STATES AND THE MIDDLE EAST: 1914 to 9/11

"The Great Courses – Part 1" by Professor Salim Yaqub, Univ. of Chicago.

I admit that it doesn't sound much like Christmas. On second thought, Christmas was a Middle East event of historic proportions. You need a map to follow the stories created by the writers of Matthew and Luke.

This isn't a book report, but I do suggest the book as an introduction to what has gone on in the Middle East and what is still going on, and why. Like, why don't these people like us?

And why can't there be a peace settlement?

The author basically says that there won't ever be a peace settlement until the "Palestinian question" is resolved.

It's a complex issue with many sides and political factors. He traces the deep bitterness back to the end of World War II. The U.S. and U.N. were eager to right wrong and create peace. So they created a Jewish state and found a homeland for Jewish people, many who had fled Germany to escape the Holocaust. Jews were overjoyed.

The problem was, the country was already occupied by Palestinians. 750,000 Palestinians became refugees. They and the Arab nations were not happy and have not been happy ever since, to say the least.

"No other single American action has done more to embitter the Arab world against the United States." (p. 95)

My take-away from this is that good intentions without justice don't make peace. That's what I get from Jeremiah's words:

*"They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying
'Peace, Peace' when there is no peace."*

I call this our annual season for lamentation. We make a list and check it twice to be sure we haven't left out any atrocity or war or suffering or injustice. I'm betting that this list will be recited widely this Christmas...as it has for almost ever.

I could go there, but won't. The wonder of Christmas is that people don't look at how things really are and give in to the hopelessness of the human situation. Why isn't everyone an atheist?

So I give up trying to get past our blind continuation of the "Eye for an eye" honor ethic of the ancient and present Middle East and our failure to embrace the "but I say to you" ethic of Jesus, and inspired prophets of other religions.

I leave my desk and go to my living room where it's time to put up the Christmas season streamers and lights. When it gets dark the best thing to do us create some light.

Art Morgan, 12/16/15