

AVELEIGH'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE, ADVENT WEEK 2 DEC 9, 2018
Sermon, GOD'S GREAT GIFT EXCHANGE
Text. Luke, 1: 68-79 p.1099

LEADER: Oh the joy of gathering together to worship the one true God!

PEOPLE: We are able to set aside what divides us to lift our voices in unity to praise our glorious King!

LEADER: There is none that compare to him, none that are like our God!

PEOPLE: We are overcome by his beauty and stand in awe of his miraculous works.

LEADER: Though we have done nothing to deserve his grace,

PEOPLE: Christ has rescued us and saved us from sinful ways.

LEADER: For that we will sing. With all that is in us, we will worship the one true God! Come now and worship.

Prayer: God of all PEACE, we are painfully aware of the world around us which is filled with strife and unrest. We confess we often live our lives in fear rather than Your PEACE. We pray that these flickers of hope and peace seen in the Advent candles might light a flame in our hearts, so that others might be warmed by our love and all find YOUR PEACE. In this Advent time of holy waiting Your arrival, let it be so. Amen.

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Text. Luke, 1: 68-79 p.1099

*INTRO; On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and **presented him with gifts** of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)*

I. WHEN WE GIVE GOD OUR WORRY - GOD GIVES US HIS PEACE

Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you.

1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

*"I am leaving you with **a gift** - peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."*

John 14:27 (TLB)

*"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But **take heart**, because I have overcome the world."* John 16:33 (NLT)

II. WHEN WE GIVE GOD OUR HURTS - GOD GIVES US HIS HEALING PEACE

*He **heals the brokenhearted** and binds up their wounds.*

Psalm 147:3 (NIV)

*He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he **brings us alongside someone** else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. 2 Corinthians 1:4 (MSG)*

III. WHEN WE GIVE GOD OUR GRIEF - GOD GIVES US HIS JOYFUL PEACE

*You will grieve, but your **grief will turn to joy**. John 16:20b (NIV)*

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of **great joy** that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Romans 12:15 (NASB)

IV. WHEN WE GIVE GOD OUR – FEAR - GOD GIVES US HIS CALMING PEACE

With His love, He will calm all your fears. Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT)

*There is **no fear in love**. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.* 1 John 4:18 (NIV)

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever** believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* John 3:16 (KJV)

V. WHEN WE GIVE GOD OUR SIN _ GOD GIVES US HIS EVERLASTING PEACE

*When people sin, they earn what sin pays – death. But God gives us **a free gift** – life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 6:23 (NCV)

*God was in Christ, **offering peace and forgiveness** to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace.* 2 Corinthians 5:19 (CEV)

As you share your faith with others, I pray that they may come to know all the blessings Christ has given us. Philemon 1:6 (CEV)

CONCLUSION: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)

PRAYER: Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift, may all receive this gift of God's PEACE .Amem.

FOUR FOR THE ROAD: *“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33 (NLT)

1. Each of us has received one gift after another because God loves and cares for us. Discuss a gift you have received in exchange for your worries and sorrows.
2. Can you describe how a sorrow on earth can become worry free, allowing you to experience the gift of peace of mind and heart?
3. How can grief keep people from fully experiencing God's joy this Christmas season
“When people sin, they earn what sin pays – death. But God gives us a free gift – life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NCV)
4. How might you invite others to share the free gift of salvation with another person during this Christmas season.