



Five words from today's second reading are simple but powerful. St. Paul writes: "May the God of peace..."

Paul names God to be the one who is the essence of peace and harmony. Paul names God to be the one who detests violence and hatred, anger and an inability to forgive.

I wonder...if I were Paul writing today what would he ask the God of peace to grant him. I wonder if St. Paul might pray the following:

May the God of peace move the hearts of world leaders to bring an end to violence and the establishment of peace.

May the God of peace teach us to look at others as God looks at all of us....with a love that is unconditional and with a heart that has compassion on our failings and foibles....who forgives far quicker than we forgive each other.

May the God of peace pour the grace of mercy into our hearts so that we might all learn to forgive those who have offended us. May the God of peace eradicate the evils of greed and commercialism from our hearts.

May the God of peace give us hearts that are willing to bring compassion to the poor, to those in need, to the alienated and marginalized of our society and our culture and our Church.

On this Third Sunday of Advent the voice of John in the desert continues to cry out to us. It tells us to prepare a way, make straight a path, for the one who is coming is coming for us. And Jesus is coming for us so that we might be the vessels by which the God of peace is known throughout our world.

Christmas isn't about God coming to a people long ago. It isn't about remembering angels singing and shepherds running. Christmas is about us...now...here in our own world. It is about making straight a path to our hearts for the God of peace to enter. It is about letting the God of peace lead us out of the darkness and into the light of God's eternal love.