

#14: Creation will be at Peace

Listen to track 14 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

Scripture:

“What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1:3b-5

Devotion:

In May 2011, Joplin, Missouri was the site of a devastating tornado. A few months later I had occasion to drive through Joplin. The path of destruction was both visible and visceral. Entire city blocks were nothing but piles of rubble and stripped, sagging stumps of what were once trees. It was heart-wrenching to see, but impossible to look away. And yet, in the midst of despair and destruction, there was something else. There were signs -- signs on businesses vowing to rebuild; signs from well-wishers sharing encouragement; signs pointing the way for volunteers and supplies to come into the community; signs of new construction slowly emerging with the promise of more to come.

Sometimes moments of grace and peace intersect the dark times and point the way to new life.

So it is with our God. I think of the moment of Jesus' birth, when the bright star overhead intersected the dark quiet night and revealed God's grace, not only in the birth of a baby, but also in the birth of a plan for the redemption of the world.

I think of the moment of Jesus' death, when the dark, empty tomb was intersected by the startling brightness of the angel bearing good news. I think of how the cross became a sign, not of death and sin, but of the unfathomable goodness of our God.

I think of the volunteers helping in Joplin, or wherever there is darkness or pain, offering a ray of hope in the midst of turmoil, bringing a sign of God's peace to those who need it most.

Prayer:

Gracious God, even in the midst of darkness, you are light and life. Help us to be light in the lives of others, to be a sign of your peace. Amen

Reflection:

If possible, darken your devotion space and light a single candle. Notice the way the light spreads through the room. Where have you noticed moments of darkness? Where have you seen signs of light? How have you been a sign of light and God's peace for others?

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The Lutheran Deaconess Association prepares people for ministries of service to those in need in the church and the world; supports deaconesses in their varied ministries; encourages the whole people of God in their own Christian service; and assists the church in its diaconal mission.

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