

#18: Peace, Perfect Peace

Listen to track 18 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

Scripture:

“Those of steadfast mind, you keep in peace – in peace because they trust in you.”

Isaiah 26:3

Devotion: Perfect Peace?!

Peace is a pretty elusive commodity in our world today. Wars, unemployment, or destruction brought on in the aftermath of natural disaster, all seem to be mushrooming across the globe. The subsequent upset and upheaval of such events, whether large or small, brings unexpected change and undesired times of transition. When one’s life is in transition – whether due to the loss of a loved one, the loss of house and possessions by hurricane, tornado or flood, or the loss of employment – one’s security is gone, and the future seems so very uncertain. Where in the world does one find peace, let alone perfect peace?

The author of this old gospel hymn directs us back to the One who walks with us through the upheaval and stands by us as we reorient ourselves. Jesus Christ is our constant companion, in good times and bad, in secure and insecure times. Christ is there to offer comfort and love, to give strength and hope.

Prayer

Faithful God, thank you for your presence in times of upheaval and transition. Enable us to be instruments of your peace through our words, actions and presence. Grant your perfect peace. Amen.

Reflection

Take a moment to consider people you know who need peace. Lift them in prayer. What phrase in the hymn speaks to your need for peace in life?

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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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Christ carries the burden of our prayers to his heavenly Father and offers himself to us in the bread and wine. And Christ very concretely offers support and encouragement to us through his body, the Church.

In my own time of transition (unemployment/ seeking a new call), the little gifts offered by sisters and brothers in Christ have helped to carry me along: an unexpected note from a deaconess sister, coffee/tea with a friend who listens with her head and heart, a phone call from an old church friend and the promise of prayers lifted up by new church friends. Small kindnesses remind me that God has not forgotten me, nor is God hidden from view.

So whether “sorrows surge around,” “loved ones (are) far away,” or our “future all unknown,” we can have peace within as we receive the gifts of God’s people and trust the One who has promised to always be with us, the One who has shown faithfulness through the ages.