

#19: Confitemini Domino

Listen to track 19 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

You can find the words in ELW 528. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Scripture:

“Peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” John 14:27

Devotion:

There is a difference between the understanding of peace as the world interprets, and the holy peace that comes from God.

Nations send military troops to keep peace, but killing continues. Nearly every week, a new conflict erupts. Seeking honor and peace for the common good often seems connected to fighting.

People in churches, in families and in our neighborhoods, talk about the value of honoring each other, and may even get involved in acts of reconciliation, but dysfunction continues. I try to stay connected to God through prayer, study, worship and service, but it seems I can only feel at peace when things are going well in my life. The minute life begins to have bumps, my sense of peace dissipates.

Why, in spite of our best efforts, does peace remain elusive? Maybe it is because our endeavors for peace come from a worldly understanding of peace. When people depend on themselves to create peace, it is as if they are building on unstable ground. Sooner or later, the ground will shift and whatever has been built on it will tilt and eventually topple.

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Through the guiding of the Holy Spirit, we are led to trust in the promise of Jesus’ peace. When we trust in Jesus’ promise of peace, then the inner desires of our soul are met, our anxieties and fears are calmed, and we are anchored amid the uncertainties of life

Prayer:

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, good and gracious God. You alone are holy. Amen.

Deaconess Judy Whaley, Prince Rupert, British Columbia

Reflection:

Find a quiet place. Light a candle. Be silent for 5 minutes. Breathe slowly. Reflect on the words found in John 14:27. Sing or hum the words to Confitemini Domini. Allow your heart to pray for you, without words, without even a conscious thought of what to pray for. See what thoughts or feelings rise in you. When the time is complete, if you are with a group of people, share about your experience.

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