



Peace Has Come

(As the candles are being lit)

The idea of peace in this world can just seem too ethereal at times. We see bumper stickers with the symbol “Peace”, or maybe even signs in front of churches saying “Pray for peace.” But one quick glance at the daily news or social media streams reveals a rugged landscape littered with violence, hatred and strife. Yet, in the midst of it all, we are encouraged to “Seek peace and pursue it” (Psalm 34:14). It is through this process of seeking, that wise men followed the star in the east, that led them to a little boy, born in a humble manger. This boy would fulfill many prophecies such as the one foretold in Isaiah 9, verse 6 that says “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” This same little baby boy would grow up, living a perfect sinless life, only to give it up, dying on a cross, as a ransom for many. He rose from the dead three days later victorious and appeared to many as proof, and later, ascending into heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father. The baby of course, was Jesus. Jesus says in John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” It is through Jesus’ overcoming, through his bearing the weight of the cross, and removing our sins as far as the east is from the west, that we can find true peace with God. “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...” Romans 5:1. May we find peace with God at this Advent season and always.