

Chris Murphy  
October 6, 2024  
John 14: 23-27  
Sermon Title: Peace I leave with You

Prayer...

Introduction:

Where do you need peace in your life? This was the question I asked different friends in my life last week. Some people shared that they needed peace in relationships. Some desired peace with learning to accept physical and mental limitations and new realities. Many people are struggling to experience peace because of the pain we encounter in the world. This week we heard on the news the struggle for those who have endured the hurricane that has impacted large areas of the south. It is hard to have peace when your home is destroyed or you have lost loved ones. We also are aware of the violence in the middle east. Whether Iran, Israel, or Lebanon , there is significant loss of life and great unrest. We cry out for peace.

Coming closer to home, we long for peace for those impacted by addiction or who struggle to make it through a day because of bullying. How does Jesus meet this world with peace?

Well, in John 14, Jesus is speaking to his disciples. He is encouraging them because he will soon face the cross and will eventually experience the resurrection and ultimately ascend to heaven.

The disciples will be left on earth without their teacher's physical presence, but he promises something. Jesus promises that he will send the advocate, the Holy Spirit and that he will therefore bring them a peace.

It is a peace that Jesus describes comes from him. It is not what the world gives, but what he gives to them.

Friends, we often look for peace in our lives through pleasant life experiences, successful work situations, positive circumstances that bring us contentment. There is nothing wrong with enjoying

good things in life and then finding a sense of peace because life is going well.

The problem is sometimes life brings you a curveball and you don't know how to hit a curveball, so you struggle. Health issues might come up. Relationships might break down. Politics might divide friends and create hostility between strangers. How do we handle when life struggles threaten to take away peace.

Jesus' disciples had reason to feel troubled and afraid when Jesus spoke about his peace. They were oppressed by the Roman leadership. The pharisees were persecuting Jesus and getting ready to turn him in to the Roman powers. The disciples feared for their lives. They did not feel peace because life was starting to fall apart for them.

How dare Jesus come with positive news given that he was soon to be crucified? And yet, Jesus has good news that he will bring them

peace that the world does not know. The disciples did not need to be afraid because the Holy Spirit would come and bring peace.

Jesus reminds his disciples to stay in a love relationship with him, to follow his teachings, and to receive the peace that the world does not give.

Jesus offers his followers a spiritual power. The power of peace and love that transcends life circumstances. He offers the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will be with them always. This spiritual power is so strong Jesus suggests that they do not need to be troubled or afraid even as they face persecution and struggle.

On Sunday night last week, I had the privilege of attending a special event for a ministry that I benefitted from last year called Shalom Collective. The event took place at the Kitchen at Middleground Farms. At the event we spoke about the ministry of Shalom Collective, ate delicious food, and enjoyed company with various faith leaders.

Shalom Collective:

Shalom Collective is a ministry that nourishes faith leaders across denominations and differences by providing year-long quarterly rhythms of nourishment, rest and connection.

If you are a faith leader in need of rest and connection, join us for a quarterly gathering of coming together to forge meaningful and healing connection.

Pastors and faith leaders are burning out at an unsustainable rate right now, church attendance nationally is in a downward trend, and congregations are increasingly homogenous. We need to gather leaders to HEAL together and to be FOR one another. Sustaining the work required in this historic moment will require soul-restoring work.

Caring for our leaders who are exhausted and lonely is essential and it needs to be done now. Additionally, if we want our pastors and leaders to grasp new and creative ways of reaching outside the walls of the church, they need to taste and see how it might look and feel.

This ministry is one that allows pastors and leaders across denominations to sit at a table together to share a delicious meal, communal practices, and guided small group conversation. Being one in Christ requires more than being offered a seat at the table, it requires meaningful connection: connection to self, others, and God.

The table is one of the central images in our faith evidenced in our regular rhythm of participating in the Lord's Supper and the

centrality of meals in Christ's ministry. The healing that can and does happen at the table is deep, rich and so very hope-filled.

So that is a description of Shalom Collective and how it benefits faith leaders. I had an amazing experience with this ministry and it helped me experience the gift of rest and connection around a table.

Today, we will enjoy an experience of Shalom as we celebrate World Communion Sunday. As we experience the blessings of the bread and cup, we will want to seek Shalom, which is the peace and wholeness that comes to us through Jesus Christ.

Where do you need peace? Where in our town do we need peace?

Where in our nation do we long for peace? Where in our world is there a need for peace?

Jesus wants to meet us with the gifts of peace. The gift of shalom, the wholeness of real belonging and real love.

Friends, I know it is often easier to try to go through life just surviving and trying our best to be strong and independent. This is not the Jesus way. The Jesus way is the way of seeking peace from God even while the world around us waivers with uncertainty.

Jesus say my peace, my shalom I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. May we seek the peace of Jesus. May we call out for peace in our hearts and peace in our world.

May God open our hearts as we seek to be peacemakers, which is the topic for next week's sermon. Peace must begin in our hearts but by God's grace and through the spiritual power shown us in God our creator, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit shalom may become a greater reality in our lives and in our world.

Shalom Collective Story of the wind...

May the wind of the Holy Spirit blow in this church and bring you peace There is a song of peace that I want to sing over you. Loraine Sarnacki sang it to us last year. I will just sing to us the chorus today,

but may the words open your hearts to feel the peace of Jesus and  
bring you comfort as we face our own troubles and fears.

Peace I Leave With You, My Friends:

Shalom My Peace, In All You Do.

Peace I Leave With You, My Friends,

I Give To You, So You Can Give To Others, Too.

To Share God's Love Is Why I Came,

To Show God's Kindness To The World

Go Now My Friends And Do The Same,

Until I Come Again... (Repeat Chorus)

Please pray with me...

John 14:23-27

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

23 Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

25 “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate,[a] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 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 14:23-27

New International Version

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Juan 14:23-27

Nueva Versión Internacional

23 Le contestó Jesús:

—El que me ama obedecerá mi palabra y mi Padre lo amará; vendremos a él y haremos nuestra morada en él. 24 El que no me ama, no obedece mis palabras. Pero estas palabras que ustedes oyen no son mías, sino del Padre que me envió.

25 »Todo esto lo digo ahora que estoy con ustedes. 26 Pero el Consolador, el Espíritu Santo, a quien el Padre enviará en mi nombre, les enseñará todas las cosas y les hará recordar todo lo que he dicho. 27 La paz les dejo; mi paz les doy. Yo no se la doy a ustedes como la da el mundo. No se angustien ni se acobarden.