

The Rev. Bob Koschik '76
Honorably Retired Pastor, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Saturday, December 18, 2010

Morning Psalms 90; 149

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-9

Second Reading Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel John 3:16-21

Evening Psalms 80; 72

1 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

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Imagine if you heard music coming from down the street, looked out the window and parading in front of your home were animals who were natural enemies, but they marched as one, reoriented and transformed and led, by of all things, a little child. Yet, as astonishing as that seems, is that not what we kind of sense in Isaiah 11. Animals who were the oldest of opponents: wolf-lamb, leopard-kid, calf-lion, cow-bear, lion-ox are made friends. Does that not hint at where the consummation of history is leading us - to reconciliation and peace and it is all GOD's DOING, God's gift. No wonder, Advent is a time to repent of all mortal strategies and scheming that peace comes from worldly security or status and to prepare ourselves to receive anew the little child whose birth we await and who is our peace.

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Prayer: Let us pray . . . Lord Jesus, you alone are our heart's desire, you alone are our peace and security, you alone are the fulfillment of our deepest yearnings and longings. In our successes and failures, help us to sense where you are calling us anew to yourself this day. Accept even our hearts as mangers, to your glory and honor. Amen.