

## **Advent Devotional December 13, 2022**

### **Scripture**

Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4 For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **Devotional**

#### **The Rev. Erin Kobs, DMin student**

This familiar text from the book of Isaiah, often read on Christmas Eve, reminds us of the joyful anticipation of Christ's coming into the world. The people, who have been through so much, are eager for the entrance of light amid the darkness. There will be great rejoicing when Emmanuel, God-with-us, arrives to bring about the coming of God's kingdom.

When our world feels so overwhelming—full of division and distrust, violence and war, suffering and pain—it is hard to see beyond the darkness. But we can rejoice in knowing that God is indeed with us, sending God's own beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be a beacon of light in the world. Even beyond that, we can place our trust in Emmanuel, the one who teaches us how to become beacons of light, shining into the darkest places of our world.

During this season of great anticipation, let us remember it is God who will lift the burdens from us. It is through God's Son, the Prince of Peace, who will shine upon us, enabling us to in turn, shine light onto others.

**Prayer**

Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God, you are indeed shining light into the dark places of the world. We wait with eager anticipation for the coming of your Son this Advent season. Let us find moments to rejoice in knowing that we are not alone. You indeed lift our burdens and allow us to continue to shine your light into this world. Amen.