

Readings

Scripture

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

- Isaiah 11:1-10 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

In that day, "A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! I, the LORD, am its keeper; every moment I water it."

- Isaiah 27:2-3 (*English Standard Version*)

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece."

- Claude Monet

Looking eastward from the summit of Pacheco Pass one shining morning, a landscape was displayed that after all my wanderings still appears as the most beautiful I have ever beheld. At my feet lay the Great Central Valley of California, level and flowery, like a lake of pure sunshine, forty or fifty miles wide, five hundred miles long, one rich furred garden of yellow Compositae. And from the eastern boundary of this vast golden flower-bed rose the mighty Sierra, miles in height, and so gloriously colored and so radiant, it seemed not clothed with light but wholly composed of it, like the wall of some celestial city. Along the top and extending a good way down, was a rich pearl-gray belt of snow; below it a belt of blue and lark purple, marking the extension of the forests; and stretching long the base of the range a broad belt of rose-purple; all these colors, from the blue sky to the yellow valley smoothly blending as they do in a rainbow, making a wall of light ineffably fine. Then it seemed to me that the Sierra should be called, not the Nevada or Snowy Range, but the Range of Light. And after ten years of wandering and wondering in the heart of it, rejoicing in its glorious floods of light, the white beams of the morning streaming through the passes, the noonday radiance on the crystal rocks, the flush of the alpenglow, and the irised spray of countless waterfalls, it still seems above all others the Range of Light.

- John Muir, *The Yosemite* (chapter 1)

Sermon Outline

Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:1-7; Isaiah 11:1-10

And His Name Shall Be Called

Brad Anderson

The reign of the child born unto us will bring a peace that heals all the effects of sin... (Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:1, 10)

Where do we see his reign healing all the effects of sin?

We see that his reign will bring the healing of humanity... (Isaiah 11:2-5)

We see that his reign will bring the healing of creation... (Isaiah 11:6-9)

Reflection Questions *(taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)*

- Who was your hero when you were 10 years old? Was he or she fictional or real?
- What does it mean in Isaiah 11:2 that "the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him"?
- Read Isaiah 11:6-9. How do the relationships pictured in the images invite you to consider the peace found while living under the reign of the child? How might these verses relate to what is described in Isaiah 19:23-25?
- Read Isaiah 11:2. There are seven qualities listed in these verses that apply to the Holy Spirit: The Spirit of the Lord, Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge, Fear of the Lord. How do these qualities expand your understanding of God's Holy Spirit? Where do you see these qualities in the ministry of the Holy Spirit? What stories from the life of Jesus come to mind as you look at these qualities?
- What in your life needs the most healing at this moment? How would that place experience the healing reign of Jesus? What do you observe in creation that needs the most healing? How would that place in creation experience the healing reign of Jesus?