

a Thrill of HOPE

ADVENT AT COPPER CREEK 2025

The Thrill of Hope Advent 2025 – Peace

12/4 & 12/6

Big Idea: “Invite God to restore you to a shalom kind of peace.”

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:8–15

“Peace interrupted... chaos reigns.”

Two Kinds of Peace

A. Peace #1: Absence of conflict

- Like sheep grazing, calm, quiet
- We think this is peace—but it’s incomplete

B. Peace #2: Biblical peace – shalom

- Not absence of conflict, but wholeness, well-being, completeness
- Peace = wholeness → hearts, lives, world made new

The world does not feel at peace because “almost nothing feels whole.”

- Personal Peace Interrupters - social media, politics, worldviews, etc...

The Hope Effect

- Hope is Jesus, we belong to God
- Peace is a byproduct of hope so, hope remains even when peace is interrupted
- “Hope makes a way for us to get back to peace.”

When Your Peace Gets Interrupted: Three Practices

1. Go to Jesus (like the shepherds)
2. Be in a genuine community
3. Return to settings that remind you what’s true

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For Personal Reflection or Group Conversation

Opening (Warm-Up)

- When have you experienced a “peace interrupted” moment recently?
- What’s something that currently steals your sense of peace?

Going Deep (Scripture & Reflection)

Shepherds

- What does it mean to you that God chose shepherds—ordinary, overlooked people—to receive the message of peace first?
- What stands out to you from the angel’s announcement?

Two Kinds of Peace

- Can you think of a time when you wanted peace to be the absence of conflict? How about a time when you sought shalom/wholeness? What do you notice about these different types of peace?
- How have you seen God bring wholeness into any fractured places in your life?
- Where in your life right now do things feel “not whole”?

Peace Interrupted – In the World and in Us

- Which personal habits or situations (social media, pressure, expectations) most interrupt your peace?
- Have you ever experienced internal chaos that mirrors the shepherds’ moment of fear?

The Hope Effect

- How does hope—that “somehow, someday, someday it’s gonna be alright”—shape your experience of peace?
- Have you ever experienced peace that didn’t come from calm circumstances?
- Which of the three shepherd practices do you need most right now?
 1. Go to Jesus
 2. Remind each other / lean into community
- Return to places that restore peace

Application

- Who is someone you can go to when your peace is interrupted?
- What is one practice or place that helps you return to a sense of shalom?
- What might it look like to cultivate a shared sense of shalom during Advent?
- Who in your life needs encouragement or a reminder of peace right now?