

GOD DESIRES SHALOM FOR ALL CREATION

When you think about the theme – **God Desires Shalom for All Creation** – what Scripture passages come to mind? Below are two that immediately came to mind for me and on which I am basing my reflection as we, as people of faith, prepare ourselves for the upcoming election.

Isaiah 11: 6-9

⁶The 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. 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 asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They 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.

Revelation 21:1-4

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

The promise of the “peaceful kingdom” in Isaiah, follows the promise of a ruler, God’s anointed, who with righteousness and faithfulness, shall judge in a way that the poor and meek are treated with equity and the whole of creation experiences peace. When God dwells among us, as God does through Christ, heaven has broken into earth, with the promise of the day when mourning and crying and pain will be no more. This is not a promise for some distant future, but for now, in our lives, on this earth. While we often separate things into religious and secular, church and politics, heaven and earth with a different set of standards for each realm, God does not. God dwells in all of creation. All belongs to God. And God desires shalom for all.

In the [draft statement on Civic Life and Faith](#) we read, *Scripture tells us that “all the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it (Psalm 24:1) and reveal God’s tender care for all creation (Psalm 145:15). In what Christians call the Old Testament the single word **shalom** epitomizes the rich fullness of that loving aim of the Creator of all creation. **Shalom** describes God’s intention in creation for the abundance of peace, well-being, goodness, truth, beauty, justice, freedom, joy, wholeness, and love woven together.* In our civic life together (where we exercise our responsibilities to vote and elect our leaders) we use terms

such as “the well-being of all” or “the common good” because as they are **earthly measures toward God’s intention for shalom.**

The God revealed through Christ is not sitting on some distant throne in heaven, detached from the world, doling out punishments or rewards after we have died. Rather God became incarnate in Christ to dwell among us, reigning and ruling, acting and caring for a world that was created to live in **shalom.** God desires shalom for this world and God desires shalom for us as we live in this world.

Questions for Reflection:

- How does the way you live reflect the understanding that all belongs to God?
- Where and how do you see God’s desired shalom in this world?
- As you listen to campaign ads and speeches, as you discern who you will for vote, how do you hear the commitment to the “well-being of all” and the “common good”?

Prayer:

You calm and quiet us, eternal God, as a mother holds her children close; all people have refuge in the shadow of your wings. Spread over us the shelter of your peace. Hold before us the wisdom of the cross, where we are drawn to you not by might or power, but by your boundless love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

(All Creation Sings p. 48)