



Week 2 - Peace



*Listen in the silence. Listen in the noise.
Listen for the sound of the Spirit's voice.*

Before we begin: Did you notice that while this is the second week in Advent, there are three candles in the illustration? This year we are doing the work of quieting and silencing in order to listen for God's voice. We began with all the lights lit, then each week we will quiet another candle to illustrate our goal of focusing and listening only for God-with-us: Emmanuel.

Invocation

God of peace we are listening for your word. We desperately need your peace. Bless this time as we quiet other sounds and attend to you.

Confession

You know us, Lord. We set out with good intentions of silencing the cacophony and focusing on you. But the pressures and expectations are loud and drown out the peace you offer. Be patient with us as we try again to quiet a place in our hearts and make room for you.

Psalm 85:8

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

2 Peter 3:13-14a

But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Prayer

Creator God, help us to remember that the time you picked for your incarnation was not any more peaceful than the time we are in. It was filled with violence and injustice; but somehow, you managed to bring words of peace to us. When we think you are silent, and we start to panic, give us peace.

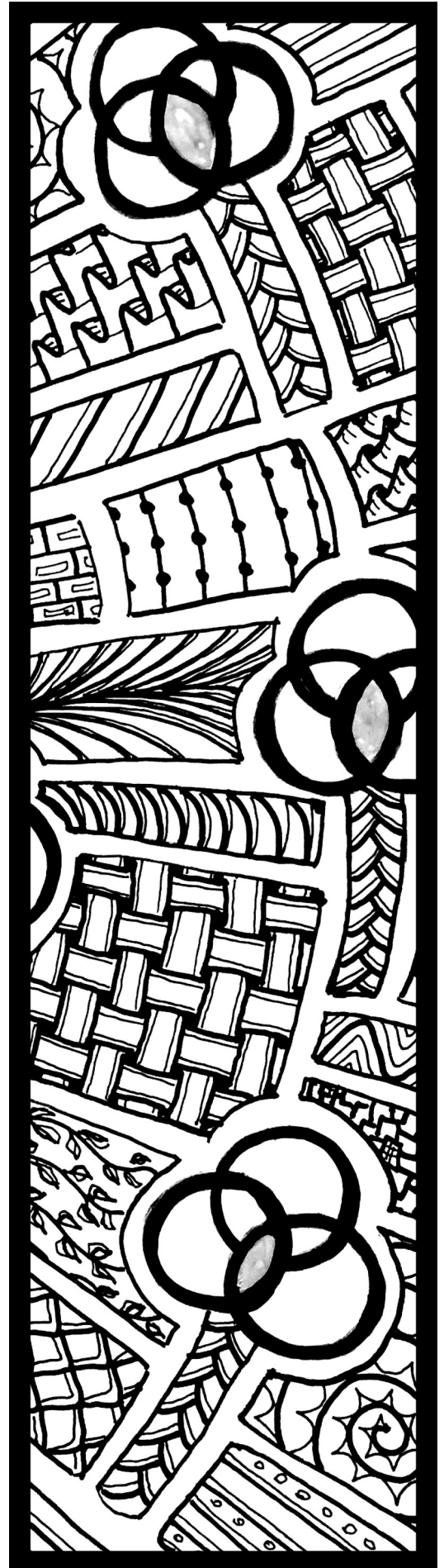
Help us to listen in the silence.

Christ, you know first-hand how hard it is to get us to listen. You taught us how to live peacefully. When we can't hear your voice over all that's happening in the news, and we start to panic, give us peace.

Help us to listen in the noise.

Holy Spirit, we need you to help us act when that is wise, and to wait when that is what you want us to do. Be very near to us so that if we start to panic, your presence will give us peace.

All: Help us to listen for the sound of your voice. Amen.



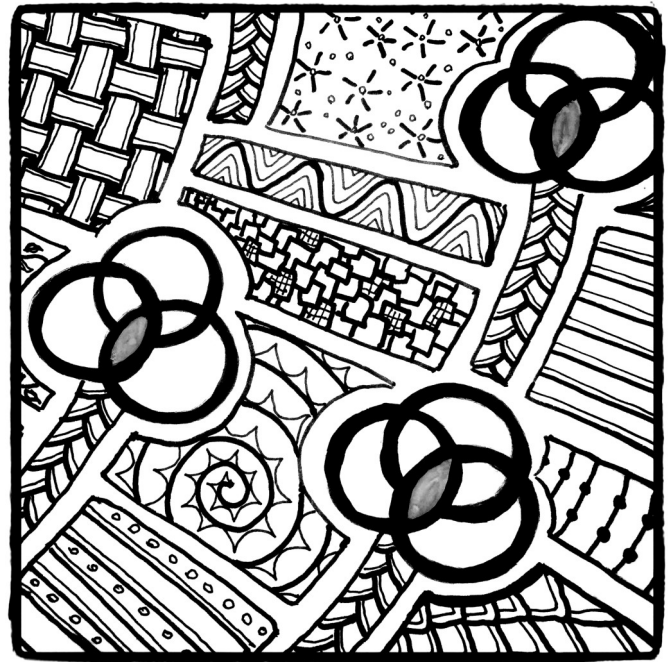
A time to be still

You are invited into a time of silence. Take a deep breath and exhale slowly. Where do you feel the PEACE of God?

Poetry is the practice of silencing the extra words so that feelings can shine. This year we are exploring poetry as a spiritual practice. By slowing down, pondering, and picking words, we can better hear what God is saying to us.

Today try a Haiku. Haiku poems have 3 lines. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the last line has 5 syllables. When you are calm and ready, use the space below to write a 5 syllable phrase that is inspired by the Bible readings. For the next line, find a 7 syllable phrase that reflects on it. Then in 5 syllables, respond to God's word. For example:

*Let me hear God speak
In rocks and trees, clouds and birds
Still small Voice, calm me*



Remember that this is not a contest. There is no grade. It is just a time to hang out with God and write down what comes to mind.

Read over your poem and then sit quietly with it, or colour the illustration.

A blessing

May God speak to us in the silence.
May God speak to us above the noise.
May we always listen for the sound of the Spirit's voice.



The call of Advent
is a call to live wide awake
so that we can be alert
to God working in us
and in our world
to bring about the Kingdom.

Awareness is another
way of talking
about being awake.

Work today to be aware of the
needs of people around you

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.
Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.
Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.
Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.
May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families.
For this we pray.
Amen.

