

Tiptoeing Toward Peace

Isaiah 2:1–5

Peace Rap

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Additional Bible Readings

[Psalm 122](#)

[Romans 13:11–14](#)

[Matthew 24:36–44](#)

We see you in the ordinary, Holy One. You make your way known in small ways and encourage us to take small steps towards your peace. Help us to tiptoe to the peace of your reign as we enter this Advent season. Amen.

War was common in ancient Israel, primarily because of the nation's small size and valuable location. A parcel of land smaller than the U.S. state of Vermont, less than half the size of Tasmania Australia or Nova Scotia Canada, ancient Israel was surrounded by nations that wanted to own it. Biblical scholars remind us that in the lives of ancient Israelites, there was only "wartime" and "preparing-for-war time." In this context, to speak of peace and pacifism (a vigorous debate throughout the Hebrew scriptures) showed especially audacious faith.

Prophets like Isaiah often announce unexpected reversals. Just as war is learned, so is peace. Like his contemporary Micah (4:1–3), Isaiah proclaims that in God's new world, not only must the weapons be destroyed; they are to be transformed and repurposed.

God's "holy mountain" is a key image in this passage. Jerusalem was built on a ridge. "Zion" was the name of one portion of that ridge. Over time, Zion became synonymous with the temple and Jerusalem itself. Mountains were often identified as "holy." They were seen as places of encounter with God. We encounter God in places on high mountains and in the ordinary living of our lives. In that everyday living of our lives, we can make choices that enable us to find the peace that is envisioned in Isaiah. We choose to live in ways that honour the earth, support movements that honour every person, and promote living in peace, not war.

