



# CHILDREN'S SERMON

BY REV. TERESA KIM PECINOVSKY

Good morning, friends! I'm so glad you made it here today. I have a question I'm wondering about—can you help me think about it? What do we think the word “peace” means? [Give children a chance to reflect.] Peace can have different meanings depending on what we're talking about. I'm thinking of three different kinds of peace.

Peace can be a feeling of calm and quietness in our hearts and minds, where we are free from feeling worried or frightened. Maybe you have your own place where you feel most at peace, like a beautiful place in nature, a comfy couch, or somewhere special. [Children may want to share where they feel peaceful.] Having peace inside is so important, especially when it comes to the second kind of peace.

Peace can mean being in harmony, or getting along with, other people we know. This includes others at school, church, in our family, or our friends. This kind of peace takes more than one person, so it can be more difficult, because we all have different things we like, dislike, or want to do. Some of you have siblings and you know how hard it can be to get along at times. [Be prepared for stories here!]

Well, this brings me to a third meaning. Peace can be groups of people, communities, or whole countries who are not at war with each other or in crisis, where people can live in safety and have food, homes, jobs, and schools. This week our church will be giving money to

Week of Compassion, whose ministry helps people in the US and all around the world who don't have this third kind of peace. Can you imagine how you would feel if there were big storms, flooding, or fires that destroyed your home? [Give opportunity for children to share their feelings.] It would not feel very peaceful, would it? Well, our friends at Week of Compassion work after natural disasters to help rebuild homes, or when people leave their homes to try to find a new and safe home in another country.

No matter how old or young we are, we can all work to build peace. You might want to think about how you can grow peace this week in one of these areas, or maybe all three. [Depending on time, children can offer suggestions. Leader may suggest: sharing our feelings when we are upset, worried, or scared; finding talking solutions to disagreements; giving money to people in need, like Week of Compassion.] It begins with peace inside ourselves, then leads to peace with people we know, and on to people we may never meet, but who are all God's beloved children. Let's close with a prayer:

*Dear God, we thank you that we are all your beloved children. We remember that Jesus often told those who felt afraid and sad: “Peace be with you.” We pray that you would help us create peace in our own lives, peace with others, and peace in our communities, country, and world. We thank you for those who work for peace and ask you to bless our efforts of peacemaking, to spread your love and compassion near and far. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*