

**Wednesday, December 27**

**Scripture Reading:** Colossians 3:12-17

**Text for Today:** Ephesians 2:17: *“So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.”*

Every year, we ask Christ into our hearts. Christ comes. But when he comes, do we let him in?

Hopelessness dims the world. Christ comes. People slam the door in his face. In Iraq, in Darfur, in Israel and elsewhere, nations seek solutions through the sword. In Washington, in Springfield and elsewhere, leaders seek to glorify themselves by vilifying their political opponents for every ill. In churches, in mosques, in temples and elsewhere, the pious seek to please God by condemning others. And everywhere, everywhere, parents mock the enemy-loving God by teaching their children to hate.

Here and there, a few people let Christ in. Rays of hope break through the darkness. In Pennsylvania, a religious community responds to the slaughter of their young with forgiveness and mercy. And God rides in their horse-drawn carriages. In South Africa, a woman forgives those who terrorized and brutally murdered her husband, even invites them into her home. And God graces her kitchen. All across America, motorcyclists ride to military funerals, shielding mourners from the hatred of bigoted demonstrators from Topeka. And God sits astride their Harleys. In Decatur, neighbors in a crime-ridden part of town welcome a felon back from prison, find him a job and encourage him to start a new life. And God walks their blighted streets.

Christ comes. But do we let him in? Letting Christ in means becoming agitators for compassion and kindness. It means becoming warriors for justice. It means becoming soldiers for peace. It means forgiving all wrongs. It means living in perfect harmony with others and with all of creation. It means letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Do we let him in?

**Prayer:**

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,

Guide us to justice, truth and love, delivered from our selfish dreams.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,

'till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace. Amen Prayer by Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1982)

*Fred Spannaus*

