



# ADVENT

Week 4

## *Peace on Earth*

### Current Series:

### Peace on Earth

Advent

Nov 27 - Dec 18

How do we prepare for the Prince of Peace's arrival? By looking inwardly to assure that we are at peace, by bringing peace in the showing of empathy toward others, by taking action against that which does not bring peace, and highlighting the peaceful things that are already going on in our city.

### Celebrate Kindness:

*"Good and kind people outnumber all others by thousands to one. The tragedy of human history lies in the enormous potential for destruction in rare acts of evil, not in the high frequency of evil people. Complex systems can only be built step by step, whereas destruction requires but an instant. Thus, in what I like to call the Great Asymmetry, every spectacular incident of evil will be balanced by 10,000 acts of kindness, too often unnoted and invisible as the "ordinary" efforts of a vast majority.*

*We have a duty, almost a holy responsibility, to record and honor the victorious weight of these innumerable little kindnesses, when an unprecedented act of evil so threatens to distort our perception of ordinary human behavior."*

– Stephen J. Gould.

### Read and Discuss:

We will not choose nihilism. We won't do it. Not while We believe in the love of God – a God who defeated sin, death and the devil. Evil rages but it's also pathetic. So as an act of defiance tonight, we will surround the names of those who died this week with words of loving kindness. We will write down every act of kindness and generosity that we can remember happening this week. If Stephen Gould's math is right, we need 10,000 but the good news is that there is more than that out there.

So by all means let us name evil for what it is, let's root out the sin and racism within us, let us fight for justice, but then let us turn the cameras toward the light, lest we become so consumed by the effects of evil that we miss the chance to be kind to a stranger, and we miss the chance to stop and read to our kids and we miss the chance to notice how acts of beauty and kindness out number acts of evil by the thousands, because in so doing we hand evil a bigger victory than it earned when in fact it has already lost.

**Take Action:****There is still time  
this season!**

- 12/20 - [Christmas Dinner with Boys Town](#)
- [Restore Gift Drive](#)
- Buy presents at the Union Square Holiday Market from [Nomi Network](#) and others
- Give to Forefront's year end campaign
- Give to the year end campaign of a cause you believe in

See, in the same 24 hour news cycle that only can speak of evil –  
 babies were born  
 and people feel in love  
 and someone put an old lady's shopping cart back for her  
 and casseroles were bright to the home-bound  
 and prayers were said  
 and little girls made brand new friends  
 and someone paid for the coffee of the person behind them in line  
 and flowers were brought to the Dallas police department  
 and children made perfectly mis-spelled protest signs  
 and people made up

- Go around the room and celebrate. Celebrate whatever it is that needs celebrating.
- Pray prayers of thanksgiving for community, for one another, for our church, for our city, for our families as we go away for the holidays.
- Celebrate by eating a meal together. Drink good drinks. Sing songs together. Play a game.

For this last week we celebrate the fact that Kindness Wins the day!