

## E-DEVOTION FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

And here we are! Christmas Eve, 2020! Merry Christmas!

In college I sang in The Messiah... grant it, I didn't have a major part as I'm really not much of a singer. But the choir director invited any student who was interested to sing with the choir. I jumped at the chance. It was thrilling! What I remember the most is this...

"And His name shall be called... WONDERFUL! COUNSELOR! THE PRINCE OF PEACE!"

I remember singing those words at the top of my lungs. And HE is just that! He is wonderful, He is our counselor... He is the Prince of Peace!

After the events of this past year, I need a counselor! There have been times in many of our lives when a counselor was really necessary. Maybe struggles in a marriage, troubled teens, frustrations with work, substance abuse, depression... those are the times when having someone to 'go' to, to talk with, to glean some advice are very important.

It's hard to admit we can't do it alone. It takes a lot of strength to ask for help... to look for a counselor. And yet... here we are! Christmas Eve and our Counselor is born! This is the Christ child who is here to walk with us every step of the way, through our lonely times, through our despair and through our difficulties. What Great News!

I'm asking you to 'ask Alexa,' or tune into the radio, maybe even find an old record of Handel's Messiah this Christmas. The words are so powerful. The music so inspiring. This is the day, the night, to let those words run back and forth through our minds. No matter what happens we are definitely NOT alone this Christmas! Our Counselor is born! The Prince who brings us peace is here.

Whether we worship in a church or online sitting at home please know that we are very much 'together.' We are joined in a circle around the manger. One family. And we have our Counselor... the Prince of Peace right there in the middle of us.

Wear a mask. Wash your hands, fold them and bow your heads. Let those words "Wonderful... Counselor... Prince of Peace" be in your minds and in your hearts this Christmas.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, what can we say to thank you for this... the Greatest Gift of all? We worship you; we praise you... fill our minds with peace, our hearts with love. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pastor Ken Nyhusmoen