

Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
210 North Fifth Street
Ponca City, OK 74601
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Seeking, Serving, Sharing
December 10, 2023



Phillips
Theological Seminary

A D V E N T



M E S S A G E

Week Two: PEACE

On Being Human

Psalm 126

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy carrying their sheaves. Psalm 126:5-6

I have always loved the Psalms. As a child I wanted to read them more than any of the texts laid before me. I loved the poetic nuance and the way they sounded, and as I have grown older, I also love the ways that these sacred truths offer a glimpse into the wide range of human emotion. There are psalms of outcry and psalms of comfort. There are psalms of rage, possibility, grief and rejoice. In the midst of these tensions, there is truth. The truth that all of this is a part of being human, while trying to understand a massive God.

In this particular psalm, the writer is remembering a time of restoration and hoping toward another. The writer believes that weeping will have an end for those who have endured far too many nights of tear-stained cheeks. They believe that those hearts that have been burdened with sorrow will be relieved with songs of joy. The writer believes this because stories have passed down of times where God has moved alongside the work of the people towards new visions of peace.

In this season of our world where marginalization and supremacy are the norm, I don't experience peace as the absence of tension. The peace that passes understanding is the courage to believe in the possibility of hope, restoration, and joy amidst it all. In this season of Advent, may we find the strength and the audacity to believe in the possibilities of beloved community that looks like working toward justice alongside a God who is moving with us. Perhaps it is there where peace can find life once again amidst this current season of being human.

Dr. Chelsea Brooke Yarborough

Assistant Professor of African American Preaching, Sacred Rhetoric, and Black Practical Theology



Thank you! DAVE
CAROLIN
Amir
A-ah
Nahd
Pazmy
Miyah
John
AM
Briella
Clive

Dear First Christian Church,
Thank you so much for your extremely generous donation of coats to Garfield families. The coats are greatly needed and so appreciated. Your continued support of our school families is so kind.

Love,
Mrs. Austin's Kindergarten
Mrs. Dancy Austi



Giving in Review

As of October 31, 2023
Income Received YTD
\$244,476.60
Actual Expenses YTD
\$274,072.02
Budgeted Expenses YTD
\$273,750.00