



Breakthrough Prayer

Dear God, fill us with Your wisdom and courage as we seek Your will for Oak Grove UMC. Empower us to follow You in serving our families, our church, our community, and our world. Help us be aware of what You are trying to do with us and through us so that we may grow Your kingdom. Amen.

Revelation 12:1-4 (Message)

1-2 A great Sign appeared in Heaven: a Woman dressed all in sunlight, standing on the moon, and crowned with Twelve Stars. She was giving birth to a Child and cried out in the pain of childbirth. 3-4 And then another Sign alongside the first: a huge and fiery Dragon! It had seven heads and ten horns, a crown on each of the seven heads. With one flick of its tail it knocked a third of the Stars from the sky and dumped them on earth. The Dragon crouched before the Woman in childbirth, poised to eat up the Child when it came.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

“What could possibly be a bigger dream, wish, hope, and prayer than for ‘peace upon earth be restored’? It feels impossible, almost ridiculous. Peace on earth? Nations war with nations. Politicians seem to be in a constant state of discord. Communities are filled with hate and prejudice. Churches divide over doctrine. Even in our own families, we struggle to get along with one another. In fact, when I pray these words, as much as I long for peace on earth, I admit it’s hard to believe the day will ever come. Methodists practiced that peace isn’t a faraway dream and in fact, that we can experience it every day. Rather than waiting for the world to be peaceful, we have a more active task of embracing the quiet and peace reign of Jesus in our hearts.

- Excerpt from *Almost Christmas: Devotions for the Season*; author Susan Fuquay

Reflection Question

- In what ways is God calling our church to be a church of peace, in the world and within the church?



WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THIS?

- To help us center our minds, meetings, and gatherings on our God

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

- At the beginning of each gathering, pass out a devotional to each member of the group
- Start by reading the Breakthrough Prayer out loud together
- Invite everyone to either 1) silently read the Scripture and devotional paragraph or 2) have a person read each out loud
- Take time for silent reflection and then discuss the reflection questions
- Then move on with your agenda/study