

December 3 to 9

Children's Work

Look, your king will come to you. He is righteous and victorious
(Zechariah 9,9)

Needed more than sparkling crowns

Children love them - kings, princesses, princes and empresses: sparkling crowns, rich clothes, a whole empire for trying out their own ideas. Splendid! And of course unlimited power and authority. No-one tells a queen when she should go to bed, how much television she can watch or how much chocolate she can eat. What a dream - being allowed to do everything and fulfil every wish. Can there be anything better?

Children love kings and queens, like they love superheroes and dream girls. Not just because everyone admires them but also because they have the power to change things and to help others. They don't admire the villains or those who get rich at the expense of others and then find the best way to shed all responsibility. Children admire those who put an end to evil doings and make peace.

Zechariah tells of such a righteous king. He won't be coming on a horse, because horses were used to demonstrate power and wage war. Instead, he rides on a donkey, demonstrating neither military force nor power, nor money. He comes as the king of peace ready to disarm "in Ephraim and Jerusalem", as it says in the next verse, in order to bring peace.

I admire this king, because this world needs peace more than sparkling crowns. During Advent, I'd like to pray for peace: "Jesus Christ, King of Peace, give our world peace and justice, and show us how we can get involved too."

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I GIVE THANKS

- that God wants to meet us in the person of Jesus Christ as the King of Peace.
- for the children in our churches and families who teach us to dream of justice.
- for those who want to accompany children on their journeys of faith.

I PRAY

- that our Christian faith gives us courage to meet others in love, regardless of culture, creed, skin colour and social standing.
- for an Advent season where it's not shopping that matters but sharing time in our families and particularly with people who are even more acutely aware of their loneliness in this dark, cold month.
- for the elderly who go out less when it's slippery outside.
- that children feel the warmth that Jesus Christ brought into the world.

Children's Work

The Methodist Children's Work wants to bring children to Jesus Christ, and so there to remain with him. We want to support young adults in their personal growth and to strengthen the rights of children in both church and society. We want to create secure spaces in our churches for children, and we take a stand in order to protect the wellbeing of all boys and girls. In our church, children meet people who share with them their living faith in Jesus Christ.

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