

Peace That Flows: From Chaos to New Creation | Revelation 22:1-5

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Date: 07 December 2025

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[0 : 00] Welcome to Ontario Community Church, where we are encouraging, equipping, and engaging lives for Christ.! I'm Pastor Patrick Daly, and you're listening to week two of our Advent series for 2025.

Before we jump into today's message, I want to give you a little context. Last week, we kicked off Advent with Revelation 21, exploring God's promise to make all things new.

We talked about hope, hope that isn't just wishful thinking, but a confident expectation that God is restoring what has been broken. Today, we're continuing that theme, but we're shifting from hope to peace.

And I've got to tell you, this passage that is found in Revelation 22 is remarkable. John receives this vision of a river, the river of the water of life, that is bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

And beside that river stands the tree of life, bringing healing to the nations. What I want you to listen for as you hear this message is how peace flows.

[1 : 07] It is not static. It is not something that we manufacture. Peace flows from God's throne, through Christ, into our chaos, and then through us to others.

We're also going to connect this vision to the entire biblical story, from Genesis, where the world begins with chaos over the deep, to Jesus standing in the boat saying, Peace, be still.

And then finally, to this final vision in Revelation, where the sea of chaos is no more. It is all connected, and it's beautiful.

One more thing before we start. My wife Amber created these incredible Advent devotionals that go along with each week's sermon. Week two focuses on peace, and it includes daily reflections, art, contemplation, and even practical ways to be a peacemaker in your community.

You can download it for free on our website at OntarioCommunityChurch.org. So let's settle in. Let's dive into this message together. Here is Peace That Flows, From Chaos to New Creation.

[2 : 18] All right. Well, good morning, everyone. What a special time it is for us to partake of communion, the bread and the cup. I think it's been so common for us to get so used to when COVID-19 was around, going into the little packets of everything, and how beautiful it is for us to be able to have bread and for us to share in the cup together, a time of remembrance and a time of reflection on the hope that is found in Christ, the peace that surpasses all understanding.

We think of all of this and this love that the Lord has for us in sending his son down to change the course of history. We think of how there is a peace that flows like a river.

And I gave you this idea, this notion of a river from the chaotic sea into when Christ enters the scene saying, Peace, be still.

We think of Advent. We think of this time of reflection, this time where things slow down in our busy lives.

I don't know about you, but how many of you go to see Christmas lights? I went into, my family and I went into Eagle, and there's this really famous light show that they have.

[3 : 54] And when you film it, you take pictures of it, the amount of lights and decorations that are on there, it's about as much as you'd get on a street and packed into one house.

And the funny part is, the neighbor next door has lights that say, I give up. You can't compete with this guy. But we think about it.

We think of the, this time, we think of slowing down. Right? Where the sun's not out as much.

And it gets darker earlier, and a lot of us just want to cuddle up with a blanket and some hot chocolate, or whatever it may be. We think about it, I have put on here, tying in our Revelation series with Advent.

What a peculiar thing to do. And I actually want us to turn to Revelation. Revelation. And you'll see in here the connection.

[5 : 01] Revelation 22, verses 1 through 5. We will see in here something really remarkable. That's good.

It's going to be on page 1,234 in your ESV Pew Bible. Revelation 22, verses 1 through 5.

Let's read it together, church. Ready? Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, through the middle of the street of the city, also on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.

The leaves of the tree were for what? Healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads, and night will be no more. They will need no lamp, light of lamp, or sun, for the God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

[6 : 31] We think about this and this notion of the water of life, right? Something that is bright as crystal. And I don't know about you, how many of you have gone to a river and you know how peaceful it can be, right?

And then, you might go further down that river and you see how chaotic it can be with all the rocks and all the things going on, right? And we can see this real-life imagery of water.

The strength and the power of water. We think of storms, hurricanes, we think of all of the forces of nature and then how peace and calm it can be.

This description then, right, is the water of life, there's the tree of life and the healing of the nations, and what's beautiful about this language is the Lord God will be their light.

So it's how it's all tied into here. Let us think for a moment about how this is tied in with our very typical Advent verses from Isaiah, right?

[7 : 33] The shoot from the stump of Jesse and the spirit resting upon him, right? We think about that and how he judges with righteousness and defends the poor and the language of the wolf and the lamb dwelling together.

Things that were prophesied that get fulfilled within Revelation. And it's wonderful imagery to show the consistency of our God and that he does not fail.

Everlasting to everlasting, our God remains the same. and he calls for each of us into not only that hope but also that peace as well. We think of how in our scripture reading there was the verse of Romans 15 talking about welcoming one another just as Christ has welcomed you.

We think of how important it is just as Christ gives us peace that surpasses all understanding. We need to exhibit that peace to other people.

Let God work in and through our lives and transform us. We have to think how important it is not only to come and know Jesus Christ and to have that relationship with him but to let it expand.

[8 : 52] Let God be your foundation and build your house upon that foundation. And just as God has given you peace may you give peace to other people. It's so very important and even when we think of John the Baptist in Matthew chapter 3 preparing the way of the Lord.

Preparing for the peace that surpasses all understanding. Right? So we see the river of the water of life flowing from the throne of God the tree of life standing on both sides bearing fruit each month.

It's kind of interesting right? Each month you're going to have some new fruits and the leaves are bringing healing to the nations. What beautiful imagery. Beautiful description of what the new heaven and the new earth will be like.

You know as a dad sometimes I'm imperfect. I am imperfect. We're all imperfect. Sometimes children can be very frustrating. Amen?

When I read this no more curse no more darkness right? I think oh there will be no more weeping right? Just as children get worked up at times throwing tantrums right?

[10 : 09] We can think of that for children but we can also expand that into our own adult life. Pain suffering no more sin restoration.

you want it to bring home and to hit home think of the imperfection that exists on the earth today. Imagine waking up one day and there's no bad news.

What a day that would be right? Imagine for a moment where there's no more darkness or there's no more curse. We think of the fallen nature right?

How so many of us are in darkness and entering into light but let's think about us dwelling with the Lord forever and what that will be like. It's actually very hard for us to fathom because we get so used to brokenness.

We get so used to darkness. We get so used to people who live in sin. We get used to hearing about evil and what evil does.

[11 : 12] When you go through the Psalms, for example, a common theme that you see throughout Scripture, particularly in the Psalms, is it seems like the wicked are doing well.

And why is that, right? Well, the thing is, it may appear that they're doing well, but God has the final say. And we have to keep that in mind and how everything is connected.

I want to go to this next slide. That should be the image on here. And we have, I put this image together of Christ as the Prince of Peace.

Now, for many of you, you know, when we talk about controversy, there's debate on how old and how long did it take for the universe to be made.

I don't want to go there. I do want to go into Genesis. If you want to turn there, you're welcome to. If not, that's okay too. Because there's something that a lot of people miss in Genesis, where it says, in the beginning, some of you can quote it verbatim, right?

[12 : 17] God created the heavens and what? And the earth, right? Verse 2, the earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the what?

Of the deep, right? And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. An imagery of darkness, an imagery of the earth without form.

It's talking about this sense of a void that is existing. So interesting that then you have the scene where God says, let there be light and there was light.

It's actually the entire story of Christ within the first two, three verses of Scripture. I don't know about you, but that is far more powerful than debating on how old is the universe.

Talking about the earth being full of darkness and the chaos of the sea representing sin, representing brokenness, and then God saying, let there be light, and there was light.

[13:29] How powerful is that? And that's why I put it on the first one, the darkness over the face of the deep, this representation. we think of hurricanes and storms and how powerful it can be.

Some of us may have been in a storm. I remember in the time that my wife and I were in Hawaii, the tropical storms that would happen all the time, and they would just come really quick, it would be very chaotic, and then gone.

And usually it would come out of nowhere. It's like, what happened? We can watch movies, recordings, about how powerful the ocean or the sea is.

So much so that there's a verse in scripture, I don't have it off the top of my head, but it talks about how in scripture, how God had to restrict the power of water in creation.

That is wild. Knowing how powerful the ocean and how powerful water already is, what do you mean God had to restrict the power of it? You mean it was more powerful than it already is?

[14:36] Wrap your mind around that for a second here. But we think of literally the chaos of the sea, but also this representation of chaos, brokenness, and sin.

And then we have within the middle of scripture this idea of Christ standing out on the boat and saying those three words, let's say it together, peace, be still.

Right? Just like how the Lord said, let there be light, and there was light. Right? Light entering the scene, much like how Christ enters the scene into the dark and broken world.

Christ is showing the power that he has, literally over water, but also showing that same kind of power that can be commanded in our own lives.

The same God that calms the sea can calm our own hearts. peace and how chaotic our very lives can be. And how there is that peace that when it says surpasses all understanding, do you realize what that means?

[15:42] It is beyond comprehension. Much like the love of God, much like the hope of Christ, it is beyond our understanding and that's okay. It's okay that it's beyond our understanding.

Just understand that Christ, our Lord and our God, has the final say and can command the sea. Now, you can raise your hand if you want to.

How many of you have been in a storm, like a literal storm, right? I know we have storms in life, right? Wouldn't it be amazing if Christ was there and just said, peace be still in that moment, right?

When you're out in a boat and it's all shaky and you feel like you're going to throw up because, you know, you're being tossed to and throw. And you think that has to take a lot of power to be able to completely calm it.

I love the old little cartoons from like the 70s and 80s, right? Where Jesus goes out and then it just completely, you have this storm and the thunder and lightning and the waves and then it's like a calm and serene scene, right?

[16:47] Where the birds are chirping again and the disciples are like, whoa, right? And that's okay. Think of that. And how that transforms your own very life, right?

So Christ out on the boat saying, peace be still. And then finally, how God makes all things new where there is no more sea. And that's found in Revelation 21:1.

Now, when you read that, we read from Revelation 22, but when you read Revelation 21, it's such a weird verse. I saw the new heaven and the new earth and the sea was no more.

And you're like, well, excuse me, where's the sea, right? But we're talking about that sense of chaos. Not that there won't be any water, but the chaos that happens from it.

The brokenness as represented by the sea will be calm because we have this notion of streams of living water.

[17:51] Just like how Christ says in his own teachings about how drinking of his water and never thirsting. Do you see how beautifully connected when we talk about water, but we also talk about the peace of Christ.

And so I show that as a good representation for us to understand that peace that flows from chaos, from sin, from brokenness, to the new creation.

And that is remarkable. So let's go to that next slide then. So what can we learn from these passages? Well, the first one, church, is that peace begins where God enters the chaos, right?

We can think of the storms, literal storms, but we can also think of the chaos that exists in our own lives, let alone the chaos that exists in our society, in our very world.

There's brokenness within us, but there's also brokenness in the world that we live in. And I don't know about you, I need some peace in my life. We all need peace that Christ provides for us.

[19:03] That peace that surpasses all understanding, people will see that, they will recognize it. And so in this, I gave this example of the new creation replacing the sea of chaos, right?

It's a good description of that. The chaos of the sea, or when you hear about people who are lost at sea, right? Representing how chaotic it is and how dangerous it can be.

We think of calm, living, refreshing, rejuvenating water and how beautiful that imagery is. I don't know about you, but the next time I'm on a boat, I don't want to be out in a chaotic sea.

I want to be out when it's nice and calm, maybe a couple waves, but nothing to the point where I'll flip over. And so we think about that, right? That first thing is peace begins where God enters the chaos.

The second thing then is that peace heals what sin has broken. Right? We think of this idea that God is the God of restoration. The river of life, it waters the tree whose leaves bring healing to the nation.

[20:15] We think of how this water is helping the tree and its healing ability. We also have to think of how the living water and the peace that comes from our Lord and our God, how it heals us, how it transforms us, and how important it is for us.

We all need healing. Do we all need healing? We certainly do. We need healing and restoration that comes from the Lord. Now, what healing looks like is obviously going to differ from each person.

Some of us have had certain experiences, whether it's bad situations, people doing evil things, traumatic events, the list can go on and on about things that we experience.

But when we think of our God being the restorer, the one that transforms us, it is remarkable. And even when we talk about the common reading in Advent 2 is Isaiah's vision of the wolf and the lamb.

This also is prophetically talking about a time where there will be peace. Thinking of a wolf and a lamb together is quite the sight, right?

[21 : 30] You think about that, you don't want to put a wolf and a lamb together nowadays. Why is that? Well, we know the answer, right? The wolf's going to eat the sheep and have a good meal out of there, right?

But the imagery of them being together, dwelling together, is a remarkable one at that. And peace in Scripture, it is the presence of God and the presence of wholeness.

Complete restoration. salvation. Now God is going to work in and through us every single day to make us more like him. And that is a beautiful process.

When you're thinking of this imagery of the tree that is bearing fruit every month, well that tree is going to take a lot of nourishment from the water. It's going to require sunshine and all the things that a tree requires.

Much like how for us, when the seed of the word gets planted, we are called to grow for us to take root in our faith and for us to bear fruit.

[22 : 36] It's kind of remarkable when you think of what the parables teach and how that's connected with the tree of life. It's like it's all, it starts making your head go, wow, this is, this is really incredible.

And so let us remember that peace is something that God gives to us. And for many of us, we search for peace.

Now I know for a lot of us, you know, when we have children or we have constantly phone calls and knocks at the door, we think for a moment, well can't I just have a little bit of peace?

Peace and quiet, right? Sometimes it's, you just want to lock yourself in your office, right? Not that I ever do that, right? Or other times you just want to lock yourself away. Can I have five minutes here?

You guys are too loud. What's going on here, right? I'm not talking about that kind of peace. Although that peace is really cool too, right? I'm talking about a peace that is beyond that.

[23 : 36] A peace that is rejuvenating. Right? And it's kind of, it can be difficult for us to wrap our minds around that. That's okay. That's the kind of peace that I want.

A peace that I may not even fully understand and comprehend. That's okay. And finally, the third one is peace prepares us to welcome others just as Christ has welcomed us.

I mentioned the idea of Romans 15, right? When we had our scripture reading about how we are called to welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed us.

We also think of how there's the call for us to bear fruit, real change and transformation. Peace then is relational. We are to give the peace of Christ to other people.

And we do that by the words that we speak and the actions that we do. And we think for a moment that peace will make room.

[24 : 40] It will build bridges instead of walls. We think of how the peace of Christ can very much transform our minds and our hearts.

And so, ask yourself that question. Who is someone that you can welcome to know Christ? Who is someone that God may be calling you to welcome or to share that peace with?

These are the kind of questions. Let's go to the application and the final piece here. How should we, what should we do because of this? it's very unusual and peculiar to look at revelation from the sense of peace.

But then again, it isn't because it's connected about the peace that we will receive in the future. Just as we anticipate and we wait for the arrival of baby Jesus in the manger, in the first coming, we await for the second coming of Christ.

It's that same kind of anticipation and it's that same kind of preparation. And so, in all of this, let Christ speak peace over your chaos.

[25 : 59] Right? We think of how there are storms literally in the world that we live in, but let's also think of the storms that exist in our own minds and in our own hearts.

peace. And how powerful is it that we should even pray, Jesus, speak peace over this place, over this area in my life.

Lord, I have a storm. I've got a stormy sea in this area of my life, right? Don't raise your hand on what that is, but we all got a stormy sea.

And we ask Christ who commands, who has command over the sea to bring peace into our lives and to bring peace into certain areas in our life.

And how important it is, think of that one area and ask Jesus to intervene and to bring peace into your life, whatever that may be.

[26 : 56] It could be a family member. It could be a relationship with a friend. It could be your own battles. Don't we have battles that we face every day? We certainly do.

And we ask God to help us to bring peace in our life. We think of strength that comes from the Lord and how God provides for us. We certainly should seek Him and ask for help.

The second thing then is to let God's peace flow into your relationships just as God transforms our lives. We have to be those ambassadors for Christ.

In what we say and in what we do, we don't just hide the light of God, right? Hide it under a bushel. No, I'm going to let it shine, right? In the same way, when God gives you peace, share that with other people.

And it will. it will fundamentally change your life to where how you interact with people is different. To where how friends or family would be like, dude, you're not the same guy I knew.

[28 : 04] What's going on with you? What's gotten into you, right? You have those kind of conversations about transformation, about the peace. peace. And people recognize that kind of peace.

Why are you so calm when X, Y, and Z is going on? How can you withstand this kind of pressure when other people would crumble or they would fall or they would go crazy in this situation?

But yet, that peace that surpasses all understanding will carry you through. It'll certainly carry you through any situation that you go through. Why do you think it's written in the Psalms, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me.

Why do you think that's written in there? It's for us to recognize that God is with us as we journey through life, as we go through storms in this life, as we go through situations in here.

And so, a challenge for you is to choose practice an act of peace. Perhaps it is a gentle word.

[29 : 15] Words of encouragement. Our words have such gravity to them, right? You can think of famous speeches, right? Ones that give life and ones that give what?

Death. Evil. Think of how powerful our tongue is, right? How many of you had a parent say, hold your tongue? Because you didn't know how to control it, right?

And certainly, I wish I could tell some people, you gotta hold your tongue, right? But certainly, it even says in Scripture that death and life are in the power of the tongue. We've got to be mindful of what we speak to people.

a gentle word, the ministry of presence, being present with people, showing up. Showing up is the first thing that we can do.

Sometimes there are situations in our life where just showing up and not even know what to say. Just you being there is enough for so many people. There have been times where I have visited someone and I did not have the words to say, if you can believe that.

[30 : 22] I'm a man of many words. But there are times I don't know what to say. And I'm just there in that moment. Do you know that kind of action can speak volumes to people?

Being there for someone, giving them a phone call, sending a text, or just showing up, hey, I heard this happened. I'm here for you.

That's it. Because we all need, it's like that famous saying, we all need a shoulder to cry on, amen? We all need someone.

And I think of this church and I think of how this church has been seen as a hospital for those that are hurting. And I think that's something I think a lot of churches should be known for.

a place where you think of a hospital or you think of this sense of nourishment. If you broke your leg, you certainly want to make sure you take care of the immediate pain, right?

[31 : 26] I think anyone with common sense would want to make sure they get relief. But to be able to strengthen the leg, to be able to have physical recovery, physical therapy to where now I can work with the leg completely.

Now, not all of us are going to break our legs here, but I'm using this as an example of why it's so important for us to have spiritual nourishment and spiritual healing.

We have to think of how when we're out in the field or when we're out in our own everyday life, sometimes we get hurt.

And it's important for us to come to the body of Christ, the community of believers for prayer, support, and encouragement for each other. I was reading a book one time that was saying that for every rebuke that a pastor must give, there's about 10 different opportunities for that pastor to speak encouragement to people.

Because more often than not, rebuke is not as common as someone who needs help and assistance or someone who needs prayer and encouragement. That was a very, I don't remember the name of the book and if you ask we'll talk after, I'll see if I can find it.

[32 : 46] But I remember that that struck a chord with me because there are some people that all they are is focused on rebuking and correcting and making sure people are on the straight and narrow. Certainly, by all means that's important.

But what about people that are hurting? What about people that need presence, words of encouragement, these kind of things are so critical. They are crucial for us.

Finally, our last thing is to bear the fruit of transformation this Advent season. Identify a pattern. Maybe there is something that you need to address in your life.

Maybe it's sin. Maybe it's having a conversation with a friend or a family member. Instead of defensiveness, defensiveness, offer understanding.

You know how hard it is to talk with someone you don't agree with? Right? They're making life choices. That doesn't mean we're not standing on the word.

[33 : 48] We certainly stand strong in our convictions and we deal in love with other people. Instead of avoidance, offer presence.

sometimes it's difficult to have difficult conversations. That's why they're called difficult conversations. Right? But sometimes it's better to just be present in those moments.

Offering to build that bridge with another person. And instead of fear, offer trust. And certainly we have to think of what is appropriate and what is not.

We have to use discernment in these kind of things. But I want you to think nonetheless of how peace is not passive. It is the path that leads to life.

And how important having that peace of Christ is. And how it transforms us and transforms other people. And I want to go to that slide, the three images, Matteo, if that's alright.

[34 : 51] The image with Christ, the Prince of Peace. And I kind of want to close with this. That the biblical story talks about the chaos of the waters, the chaos of the sea, and how Christ enters the sea standing on the chaotic water.

Right? Not afraid. And how the disciples and how even us can be afraid of standing on a boat, right? When there's chaos going on.

God's But how Christ stands with such authority and presence and power to command the sea and the sea obeys.

And it ends with the river of life. let us think of Christ as the Prince of Peace, the one who can calm storms, literally, but also the storms in our life.

How Christ will heal our wounds and he's preparing a new heaven and a new earth. And so this Advent, may you hear Christ speaking peace over your chaos, over the storms of your life and may the river of life flow through the broken places in your life.

[36 : 15] May there be healing, restoration, transformation and renewal. And whether we got that broken leg or we're strengthening it, may we be on a path of healing, renewal and strength from Christ.

May his healing peace move through you and to others. Let's pray together. And Father, we thank you for this time and this opportunity for us to go over this wonderful Advent theme of peace.

And in going over Revelation and this scene of what the new heaven and new earth will be like, may we take away from this sermon how your son, Jesus Christ, commands the storm and how he has the power and the authority to speak the words peace, be still.

And I pray for every person here. If they're experiencing chaos in a certain area, a stormy sea or a stormy situation, that you will intervene and let there be peace in their life.

I pray for the people that are watching online, the people that will be listening to the podcast recording of this, that they will know God calls them to receive his grace.

[37 : 43] God also calls them to receive his peace. May we never forget that. May we never lose sight of that, knowing that Christ is the Prince of Peace.

We love you, we praise you, we glorify you, and we honor you. we're so in awe of who you are, just as that song says, great are you, Lord, and may we pour out our praise to you.

It is in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, that we pray, and we all say together, amen, church. Amen. Thank you for listening to today's message.

I hope that this sermon encouraged you. You know, when I was preparing this message, I kept thinking about this imagery of that which is chaotic to the river of life, the river that is flowing from God's throne.

It is something that is remarkable, it is something that is abundant, powerful, and life-giving, and that is what God's peace is like. It flows like a river.

[38 : 53] But here's another thing that really struck me. Peace isn't just something that we receive, it flows through us, from the throne, to the river, to us, and to others.

It's this constant movement of peace that is found in Scripture. And that's what this message teaches us, that peace begins where God enters the chaos.

Peace heals what sin has broken, and peace prepares us to welcome others the way that Christ has welcomed us. I want to challenge you this week with something that is practical.

Think of one area where chaos is loud in your life. Maybe it's a relationship. Maybe it's anxiety. Maybe it's just something internal that you're wrestling with. And I want you to begin each day with this simple prayer that I mentioned in the sermon today.

Jesus, speak peace over this place in my life. Just that. Name that area, identify it, and trust it to the one who calms the storms.

[39 : 57] See what happens when you invite Christ to speak peace over the chaos, even in your own life. The great thing is, you do not have to manufacture peace.

You don't have to fix everything. You just have to let God's peace flow through you. All of our resources from today, the devotional, the notes, the slides, all of the things, they are available for free on our website at ontariocommunitychurch.org.

Everything is also in our sermon archive, so you can go back and review or even share it with someone else. That is very much encouraged. Next week, we continue our Advent series with week three, focusing on joy.

But until then, let us think of that image of how Christ will calm the storms, the literal storms, but also the storms in our life. May the river of peace flow through you this week.

May Christ speak calm over every chaos in your life, and may you be a carrier of peace to those around you. God bless you. We will see you next week as we continue through Advent.

[41 : 06] Thank you. up.

up up up up Thank you.

Thank you.