

ADVENT WEEK TWO

December 14, 2019

Waging Peace

1 Samuel 2:1-8

There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you, there is no Rock like our God. 1 Samuel 2:2

Today I learned that *Waging Peace* is the title of Eisenhower's memoir from his years in the White House. Perhaps, you already knew that. It's a phrase I generally associate with social justice advocates who recognize that achieving peaceful equilibrium first requires stirring things up. In both cases, the idea of waging peace captures the push and pull inherent in the coexistence of competing forces, values, needs, and desires.

Whenever I read Hannah's song or Mary's Magnificat, both of the same biblical genre, I remind myself that this is what it looks like to wage peace. "The world as it is" gets turned upside down in order to make space for "the world that could be," the world that God created us to be, the world that Jesus foreshadowed in his life and promises through his teachings.

This is the world we await in the Advent season. We await as disrupters, as wagers of peace in the name of Jesus Christ. Advent is not a comfortable or comforting season, as much as we might prefer it to be. Sometimes we are the people actively overturning systems of power that are designed to defend "the world as it is;" sometimes we are the people whose lives are being overturned because we are beneficiaries of and complicit in those same systems of power.

No, Advent is not a comfortable or comforting season. It is, however, a necessary season for wagers of peace who are committed to a vision of "the world that could be" and to the God who makes it possible.

In the words of Hannah, "There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." Amen.

Rev. Susanna Weslie Southard

Interim Director of the Supervised Year in Ministry Program,
Chaplain, and Instructor for Ministry Studies