

Sunday 13th october St James Morning
Worship.

May these words I preach be acceptable to
you my God and Father Amen .(please be
seated)

Peace , Shalom and Wholeness.

Peace if you look it up in a dictionary is
explained as Wholeness ,Harmony ,Unity a
prosperity of health and fulfillment.

So an inner harmony of interpersonal
relationship with others, made possible by a
personal relationship with God is a very
Christian way of life .

The symbols of peace are shown as a Dove
and the flowers of a Peace Lily and white
poppy and the offering of an Olive
Branch ,also the C.N.D circle made popular
by Green peace calling for nuclear disarmament .

The Hebrew word Shalom also means peace
and is used to greet each other as it is also
saying- Well being and wholeness be upon
you- and Shalom as you depart is taking that

well being and wholeness with you .

We say - Peace be with you- and our response is -also with you .

I think you can see how we still use these words today.

As St Johns church, departs, they always sing Shalom Shalom ,Gods peace be with you till we meet again Shalom Shalom.

We all constantly strive for peace as only peace can bring about a wholeness of body mind and spirit ,so we can lie down an sleep easy .

When things are going wrong for us , we often say there is no peace for the wicked ,it shows we are struggling with something or other ,we are in a personal turmoil ,we are lacking that inner peace that brings about contentment and happiness .

But if we look around us, not only is it true for ourselves, but the world as a whole .

When we are at war ,thats when everyone pulls together ,as we strike out and pray for peace, we want it as a wholeness for the

world .But we can only get that peace granted, by both sides wanting it and an acceptance that we need to come together and reconcile our differences .

When I was a little girl and trying to understand about what war means ,My grandfather said to me ,"when we go to war ,do we go as to defend our country , so are we fighting our enemies or defending ourselves against them ? But isnt that exactly what the soldiers on the other side are doing too "?" What we do know is more prayers were said daily for an end to war ,by taking it all back to God ."

I think what my grand father was telling me was- that wars dont start by themselves and does anyone really want to be at war .

I think if we liken that to our own personal life and the inner turmoils we experience ,we can only ever find peace if we take them back to God .

For God gave us his only son to be our prince of peace .

Making or bringing about peace takes a real

effort ,although it is a gift from God, brought to us through Jesus Christ ,we have to do our part .It means making a conscious effort to resolve our daily conflicts of mind and actions ,while asking God to help us to achieve this .

The search for peace is endless and is still a major concern in the world today ,people pray for peace ,light candles ,they march on the streets demonstrating about an injustice of some kind or another ,to promote peace and bring an end to these conflicts and hopefully bring an end to wars .

Yet - Strife , violence and wars continue .The Bible tells us , God sent us these commandment's ,

Thou shalt not Kill and Love your neighbour as yourself ,this is pointing us to the way's of peace, yet it still seem's so unrealistic in this very modern world .

The gun and knife crimes , youths forming gangs ,the crimes of the internet scams and the use of cyber bullying bringing about dyer consequences for the individuals targeted .

We need to work towards wholeness for the world .Wholeness is something that contains all the components to complete it, not divided or disjointed ,not wounded , injured ,or impaired .Its an entity or system made up of interrelated parts to complete a whole . A bit like a jigsaw puzzle if all the pieces are there the picture is complete, but should just one piece be missing the picture is not seen as a whole .

We all have a physical body created by God , this body came complete when God breathed his spirit into it .This spirit of breath gave life to that body and man became a living soul .So now we all have a spiritual nature ,with a soul ,within a physical body.

God created Adam and Eve in his own image ,and they were without blemish ,they knew no shame , they were sinless ,they were perfect , from a whole person health perspective .

But then they committed a sin ,that perfect design of man was marred forever, and from that time on all future generations inherited

that guilt of sin .

We have grown up in a world of temptations, that affects us physically, in all kinds of difference ways and its how we go about resisting these temptations that bring us to search for our inner peace .The spirit that was breathed into us makes us want to find that prefect being again ,our souls cry out for it ,we want to be whole again ,we want to be like we were, before that sin commited by Adam and Eve.

It's the spirit that is at work within us, that can help us, to work through our emotions ,help us to stay on the right path, it's this spirit that can and will bring us back to God .So each day we have a personal struggle to overcome, to find our wholeness and inner peace.

But how do we go about this, to bring a wholeness to a world that is also suffering and crying out for peace ?

World peace or peace on earth is the concept of an ideal state of happiness, the freedom to live out our lives in harmony with one another ,because as in all times we have to

share this planet earth with all people 's which will involve different cultures , different religion's , philosophies ,but all struggling to find that wholeness ,not only for their Nation, but for themselves as individuals.

God wants us to be like him, have boundless love for each other and we do have his spirit breathed into us for that very reason.

In this world of wide range media coverage ,we should be able to understand each other better ,we should be able to stand ever more united , we should be able to find peace and maintain that peace .

yet sadly the truth of the matter is a complete opposite, every day we open a newspaper ,or look at a tv station ,or look on a web site ,we see acts of war or terrorism or on going conflicts locally or world wide, there is still a lack of peace in all area's .

So how can we honestly make a difference to finding wholeness and peace .?

Well it all starts with ourselves ,we need to see the factions in our own families if there are some , we need to go and seek the peace ,we

need to reconcile those difference's that divide us as a family .We need to let go of our anger, our I told you so's and a dislike of a person's choice of religion or partner or lifestyle ,go into a field , or walk up a mountain shout out that anger to god ask him to help you , or by bringing it to him in prayer if you dont like the idea of screaming it out .

Next we need to look around us, to the community where we live , it is here that we can all work together to combat crime ,racism ,learn to accept the different religions amongst us ,take the time to really listen to one another ,help each other to serve the community in which we live . It might be just a small act of kindness on your part by say for an example, of providing an elderly or sick neighbour with a meal ,I am sure you can all think of lots of other's and area's around about you ,that by just taking that first step you are making a difference .

Imagine what that would be like if everyone followed your example ,it would spread out through the community ,it would start to show empathy for one another, which will help to

build up trust , trust makes for tolerance which eventually will bring about peace .

The community is learning to live alongside each other in love .This love spans cultures and faiths ,its recognising we are all human and we are all responsible for the way we treat each other ,the way we respond to each other ,love is the name of this pursuit of our own wholeness and peace and God is love for the Bible tells us so . We need to keep reading his message clearly spelt out to us in the teachings of Jesus and the commandments .

The law God gave us is still as much valid today, a guideline of how to live in peace alongside each other,if only the world followed it still, we would recover wholeness and peace.

So if you remember the hebrew word Shalom means, well being and wholeness for you .

So I wish you all shalom shalom. Amen.

