



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

March 16, 2025

“The Peacemakers, Matthew 5:9”

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (NRSVUE, NIV)

“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.” (NLT)

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.” (MSG)

This Beatitude is not about avoiding conflict or keeping quiet to maintain peace at any cost. It is a call to do the hard work of reconciliation: building bridges where there is division, seeking justice where there is wrongdoing. Peacemaking requires courage, wisdom, and, often, a willingness to sacrifice personal comfort for the sake of restoring relationships.

Peace is essential for any society, but it does not come easily. Peacemakers often face misunderstanding, rejection, or even hostility, as they find themselves between opposing sides, mistrusted and disliked by both. The work of reconciliation demands patience and persistence, because true peace is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of justice and love. Jesus Himself is the Prince of Peace, and those who follow Him are called to carry forward this mission—not by force or dominance, but through humility, mercy, and a heart that seeks what is right. And (I’ll say it again) persistence.



Peacemaking is needed in every area of life. It applies not only to warring nations but to everyday relationships, within families, the workplace, and in communities. Peacemaking calls us to choose tolerance and humility over division, extending grace instead of seeking revenge, and building fairness where injustice prevails. A peacemaker does not stand on the sidelines but intentionally seeks to heal what is broken.

To be a peacemaker is to take part in the work of God. It is to follow the path Jesus blazed. It is to open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is not always easy. It is often not met with immediate success. And yet, if we are honest, it is the calling of those who would be “children of God” because they reflect God’s character by bringing healing where there is injury, unity where there is division, and hope where there is despair. May it be so. Amen.

- God’s Peace, Vance

Prayer box: let us pray for the souls of our departed friends and family members – Ann, James, George, and Bill – and those who mourn for them. Let us pray for comfort and healing for Connie, Patti, Holland, Steve, John H., Debbie, Lynn, and Maggie. Let us pray for the NY corrections officers, the National Guard members, and all those incarcerated. Let us pray for all churches seeking pastors. Lord, hear our prayers!