

**Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

*Paul Jones, Bishop and Peace Advocate, 1941*

### **The Collect**

Merciful God, you sent your beloved Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Raise up in this and every land witnesses who, after the example of your servant Paul Jones, will stand firm in proclaiming the Gospel of the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Old Testament**

**Malachi 2:17-3:5**

You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "All who do evil are good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

### **Psalm 76**

1 In Judah is God known; \*

***his Name is great in Israel.***

2 At Salem is his tabernacle, \*

***and his dwelling is in Zion.***

3 There he broke the flashing arrows, \*

***the shield, the sword, and the weapons of battle.***

- 4 How glorious you are! \*  
***more splendid than the everlasting mountains!***
- 5 The strong of heart have been despoiled; they sink into sleep; \*  
***none of the warriors can lift a hand.***
- 6 At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, \*  
***both horse and rider lie stunned.***
- 7 What terror you inspire! \*  
***who can stand before you when you are angry?***
- 8 From heaven you pronounced judgment; \*  
***the earth was afraid and was still;***
- 9 When God rose up to judgment \*  
***and to save all the oppressed of the earth.***
- 10 Truly, wrathful Edom will give you thanks, \*  
***and the remnant of Hamath will keep your feasts.***
- 11 Make a vow to the LORD your God and keep it; \*  
***let all around him bring gifts to him who is worthy to be feared.***
- 12 He breaks the spirit of princes, \*  
***and strikes terror in the kings of the earth.***

### **The Epistle**

**1 Peter 3:8–14a**

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For “Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.

### **The Gospel**

**John 8:31–32**

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”