



Peacebuilding in Polarized Times

Sunday, December 7th, 2025

St. Croix Church

PEACE

1 : a state of tranquility or quiet: *such as*

a : freedom from civil disturbance

"Peace and order were finally restored in the town."

b : a state of security or order within a community provided for by law or custom
was arrested for a **breach of the peace** = was arrested for **disturbing the peace**
[=for behaving in a loud or violent way in a public place]

c : freedom from being disturbed or bothered by people, noise, etc.

went outside for a few moments of peace

Why won't they leave him in peace?

PEACE

2 : **freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions**

Spending more time in nature has helped me achieve **inner peace**.

I have been in perfect peace and **contentment** ...

Insurance can provide you with **peace of mind**.

May our dearly departed friend **rest in peace**.

3 : **harmony in personal relations**

There will be no peace in this house until one of them apologizes.

She wanted to **make her peace** [=end an argument or disagreement] with her father before he died.

“... many eschewed political talk in favor of **keeping the peace** between friends and neighbors.”

PEACE

4 a : a state or period of mutual concord between governments

“There was a peace of 50 years before war broke out again.”

b : a pact or agreement to end hostilities between those who have been at war or in a state of enmity

“... few believe a negotiated peace is imminent.”


—often used before another noun

a peace agreement/accord/treaty

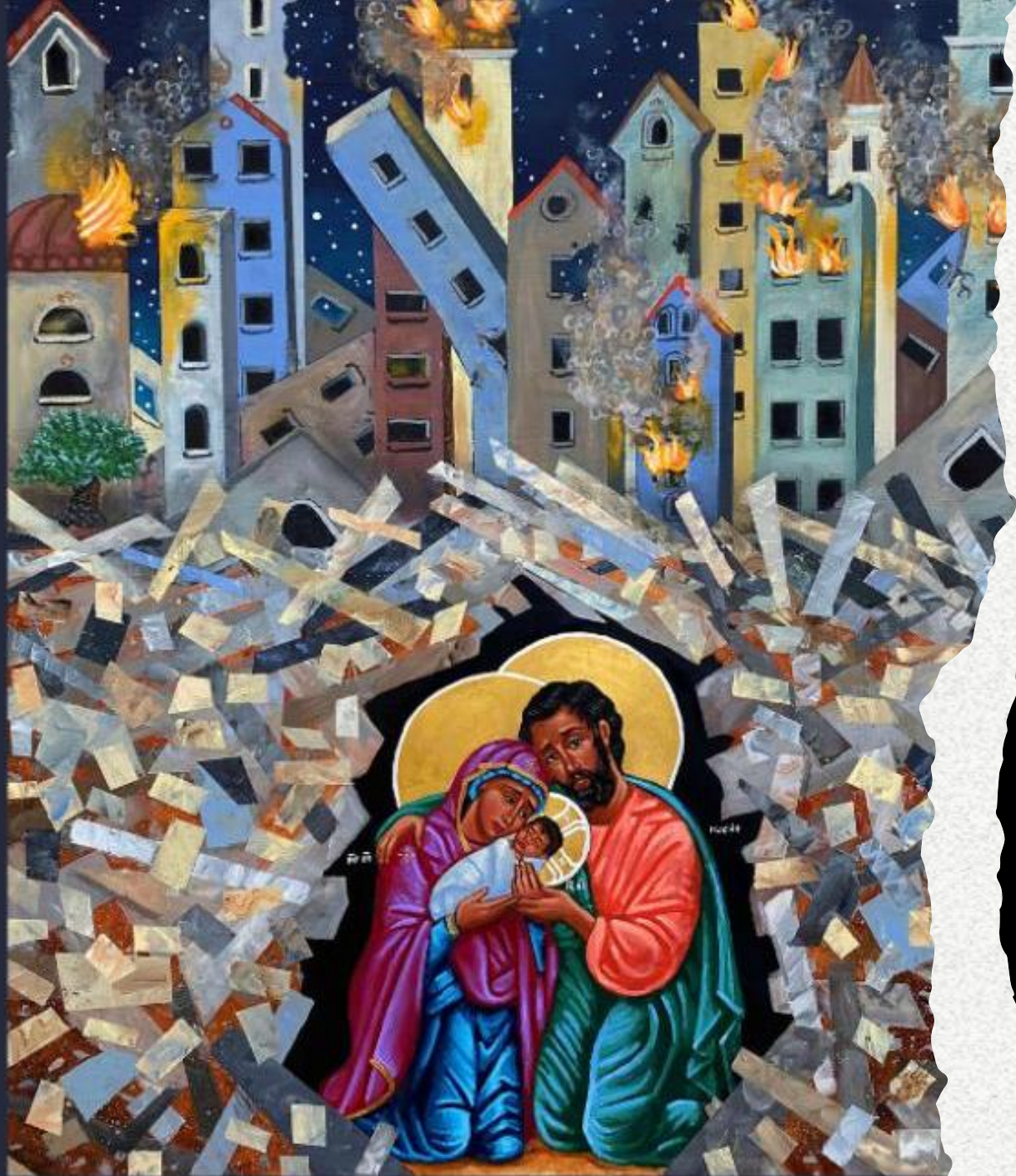
a peace initiative/conference

“The two sides have held no substantive peace talks in more than a decade.”

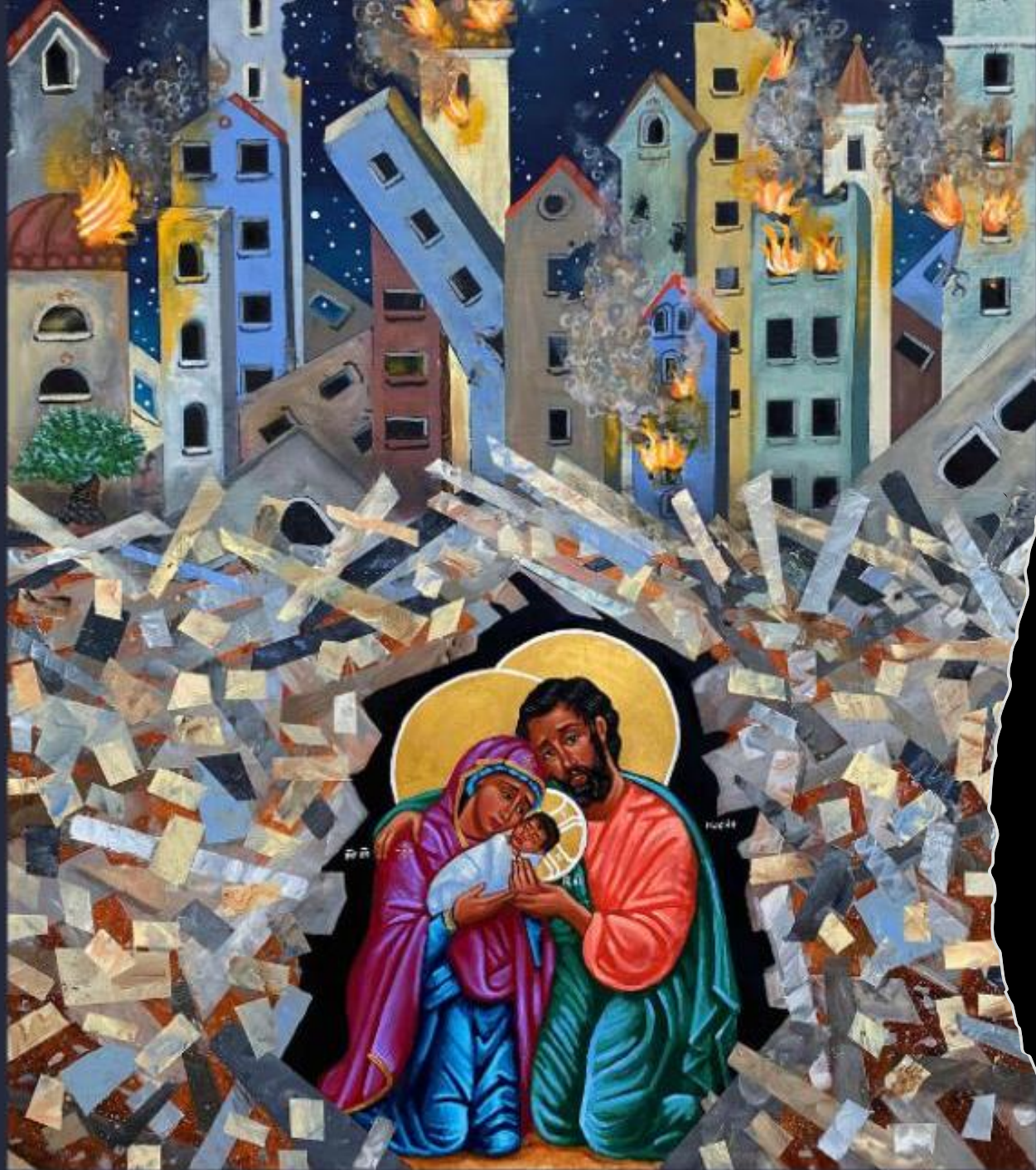
5 —used interjectionally to ask for silence or calm or as a greeting or farewell

A black and white photograph featuring two large, leafy trees in silhouette against a light, overcast sky. The trees are positioned on either side of the frame. Their roots are exposed and spread out across the ground, which is covered in grass. In the center of the image, there is a large flock of birds flying in a loose formation. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Greek: εἰρήνη (eirēnē)
meaning “to join”



The Holy Family (then and now)



What kind
of peace,
and how?



Ephesians 2:11-18

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

