



And suddenly

there was with the angel

a multitude of the

heavenly host, praising

God and saying,

“Glory to God

in the highest

heaven, and

on earth

peace

among those whom

he favors!”

(LUKE 2:13-14)

The Peace of Christ and the Peace of Rome



IN MY OWN COUNTRY, in Germany and in the United States, what the church is saying is that you can have it both ways. In a way the church preaches that you can have the Pax Christi, the peace of your soul, a relation with God up there for you as an individual. You can have that—that’s the peace of Christ. But for the outward world you need something else. You need something like the Pax Romana. You need the military. You need so-called security. You need bombs. You need napalm. You need gas...The churches try to compromise between the Pax Christi and the Pax Romana and try to find a way to have both. But I think the New Testament is very clear. You can’t have both.

— *Dorothee Soelle*

FROM *YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE: LIBERATION THEOLOGIES IN THE UNITED STATES*. ORBIS BOOKS, 1990.



FOR REFLECTION

What sort of peace do we want? Are we working for Caesar’s peace or Christ’s peace? Are they compatible? Have you ever had to choose one type of peace over another?



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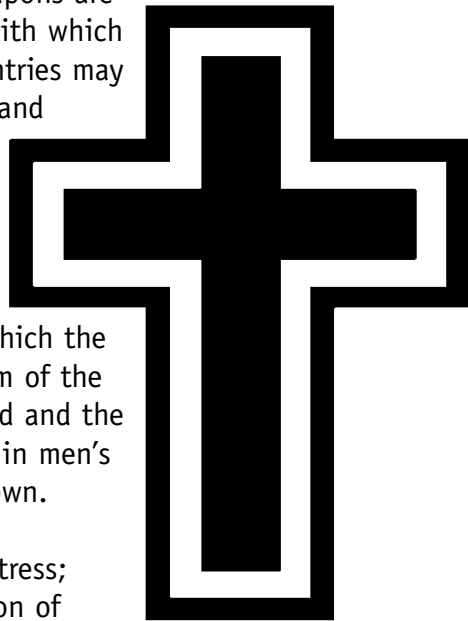
FOR REFLECTION

What sort of peace do we want? Are we working for Caesar’s peace or Christ’s peace? Are they compatible? Have you ever had to choose one type of peace over another?

I Tell you the Truth in Christ

I TELL YOU THE TRUTH IN CHRIST:
the rightly baptized disciples of
Christ...have no weapons except
patience, hope, silence, and God's

Word...Our weapons are
not weapons with which
cities and countries may
be destroyed...and
human blood
shed in tor-
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spiritual kingdom of the
devil is destroyed and the
wicked principle in men's
soul is broken down.



...Christ is our fortress;
patience our weapon of
defense; the Word of God our sword;
and our victory a courageous, firm, unfeigned faith in Jesus
Christ. And iron and metal spears and swords we leave to those
who, alas, regard human blood and swine's blood about alike.

—Menno Simons

Excerpted from *The Complete Writings of Menno Simons*. Herald Press, 1956, p. 158.

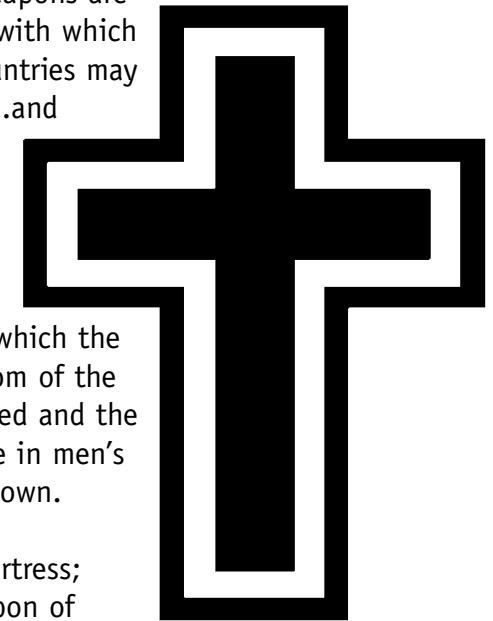


Excerpted from *Second Mile: A Peace Journey for Congregations, Pathway A*.
Edited by Carol Penner. Art and design by A Distant Wind.
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