

Week of Prayer for World Peace

10th - 17th October 2021



Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

1**Uniting rather than dividing people**

*Help us to work with all people towards
a peaceful world*



Let the rain come and wash away
the ancient grudges, the bitter
hatreds held and nurtured over
generations. Let the rain wash
away the memory of the hurt, the
neglect.

Then let the sun come out and fill
the sky with rainbows. Let the
warmth of the sun heal us
wherever we are broken. Let it burn
away the fog so that we can see
each other clearly. So that we can
see beyond labels, beyond
accents, gender or skin colour.

Let the warmth and brightness of
the sun melt our selfishness. So
that we can share the joys and feel
the sorrows of our neighbours.

Rabbi Harold Kushner

We must be united. We must love each other.
We must ever praise each other. We must
bestow commendation upon all people, thus
removing the discord and hatred which have
caused alienation amongst men. Otherwise,
the conditions of the past will continue, praising
ourselves and condemning others....

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í

Give us Lord God, a vision of our world as your
love would make it; a world where the weak are
protected and none go hungry or poor; a world
where the benefits of civilised life are shared
and everyone can enjoy them; a world where
different races, nations and cultures live in
mutual respect; a world where peace is built with
justice and justice is guided by love; and give us
the inspiration and courage to build it.

*Trevor Williams, Corrymeela
Community*

2**Education for a culture of peace**

*Let us pray for all involved in learning and
teaching for peace*



Teach me the way of life,
Not a life that is mean and narrow
But a life that is rich and full and free,
A finding of strength, a sharing of wealth,
A reaching for joy at its fullest
And generous, generous always.
Teach me the way of peace.

Sue Gilmurray

Affirm divine calmness and peace, and
send out only thoughts of love and
goodwill if you want to live in peace and
harmony. Never get angry, for anger
poisons your system.

Paramahansa Yogananda

Oh Great Spirit, I pray for your blessing.
I pray that you bring peace to all
my brothers and sisters of this world....
Give us the wisdom to teach our children
to love, to respect, and to be kind to each
other. So that they may grow with peace in
mind

Anonymous Native American

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it
is in the minds of men that the defences
of peace must be constructed.

UNESCO Constitution

3 Ongoing pandemic situation

We pray for all those still affected and those supporting them in many ways



Millions of people have asked themselves and each other where they might find God in the (Covid-19) crisis. What comes to mind is the overflow.... found in the suffering that the crisis has revealed and the creative ways in which people have responded. I see an overflow of mercy spilling out in our midst and in some a new courage and compassion.

This fills me with hope that we might come out of this crisis better. But we have to see clearly, choose well and act right.

“Let us Dream” by Pope Francis

... it is righteousness ... to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask ...; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfil the contracts which ye have made; and to be firm and patient, in suffering and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic.

The Qur'an, Surah 2

This pandemic is a world reset. We have a chance to change the world. What it has proven is no matter what your politics, no matter what your religion, no matter what your job status, we are all brothers and sisters in the world together.

Johnny Corn

4 A world free of nuclear weapons

We pray for the wisdom of leaders to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction



... the greatest need in the world today is international peace. The time is ripe. It is time for the abolition of warfare, the unification of nations and governments. It is the time for love. It is time for cementing together the East and the West.

‘Abdu’-Bahá, Bahá’í

On 30 June 1946, the first atomic test was carried out in the Pacific and many more took place with a legacy of radiation and population displacement. On this 75th anniversary year of this test, we pray:

For all in the Pacific who, like so many people in the world, are victims of nuclear weapon activities.

For Marshall Islanders, inhabitants of a region who were used, without regard for their vulnerability, for the testing of nuclear weapons.

For everyone in the Marshall Islands, suffering still today from radioactive fallout and pollution from leaking nuclear waste.

For all victims of indifference who, like the Marshall Islanders, are set aside.

Michael Pullen, Christian CND

5

Environmental impact of conflict

Let us pray for guidance to use the world's resources wisely for peaceful ends



Earth is a blessing; she supports life and is the basis of all our economies. She conveys beauty and evokes recognition of something greater than ourselves. She is our temple, our mosque, our sanctuary, our cathedral and our home. Let us together be committed to help sustain Earth as our collective home.

Anon

In a few decades the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace..

*Wangari Maathai,
Nobel Peace Laureate*

The Soul of Mother Earth cries to you: "Why did you create me? Who fashioned me this way? Anger, cruelty and aggression oppress me. And no one but you has the power to shield me and lead me to real happiness"

Zoroastrian

Promoting and living by principles of universal peace can lead to less violent conflicts and wars. This will enable vast resources, used for warfare, to be directed to creating a healthy and sustainable society.

Brahma Kumaris

Bless you with God's grace and may the power of prayer bring peace to the Earth. This is the time when sincerely and honestly we all should pray to God so that there may be peace on Earth again.

Sikh

6

Effect of conflict on children

We pray for children and young people caught up in adult wars



We pray for children whose childhood has been interrupted, for young eyes which have seen far too much, young hands trained to hold weapons, young feet forced to march, young minds seared by commands no child should encounter.

We pray for children used in conflicts to be set free, for your healing to restore their bodies and minds and the bodies and minds of those they have harmed, for their reconciliation within families and communities and an end to cycles of grief and trauma.

And we pray, O Lord, for a just and peaceful resolution of the conflicts that rend our world and that put children and adults in harm's way.

Christian Concern for One World

"Let us remember them"

The highest numbers of violations were the recruitment and use of 8,521 children as soldiers, followed by the killing (2,674) and maiming (5,748) of 8,422 children and 4,156 incidents of denial of humanitarian access.

UNICEF report on children and armed conflict 2020

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Sanctuary



Let us remember those in need of refuge and safety

All-loving, ever-present God,
We pray for our neighbours – for
the people we know and love, and
for the people we have never met.

We pray for our neighbours – for
the people across the street, and
for the people on the other side of
the world.

We pray for our neighbours – for
the people who look and sound like
us, and for the people who couldn't
be more different.

We pray for our neighbours – for
everyone who is struggling, for
everyone who is being
marginalised and oppressed.

Adapted from Tearfund

Be as ... a haven for the distressed, an
upholder and defender of the victim of
oppression.

Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the
suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive.

Bahá'u'lláh, Bahá'í

May I be able to look upon all beings with the
eye of a friend. May we look upon one another
with the eye of a friend.

The Vedas

May whoever walks through our open doors,
seeking solace and refuge, find a safe haven
offering friendship, peace and hope.

May all beings be happy and at their ease
free from pain, fear, distress or enmity;
untroubled, well, unharmed, in Peace.

Buddhist Blessing

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Peace Making



*Let us recognise our innate capacity to bring peace
and harmony to all situations*

Grant us peace, teach us peace;
guide our steps in the way of peace.
Open our eyes and our hearts, and
give us the courage to say: "Never
again war!"; "With war everything is
lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to
take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Pope Francis

War is as outmoded as cannibalism,
chattel slavery, blood-feuds, and
duelling, an insult to God and
humanity...a daily crucifixion of Christ.

Muriel Lester

If we have no peace, it is because
we have forgotten that we belong
to each other.

Mother Teresa

Grant us Thy peace, down from
Thy presence falling
As on the thirsty earth cool
night-dews sweet;
Grant us Thy peace, to Thy
pure paths recalling,
From devious ways, our worn
and wandering feet.

E. Scudder

Week of Prayer for World Peace

Shared Faith Worship

“Where people are praying for peace the cause of peace is strengthened by their very act of prayer, for they are themselves becoming immersed in the spirit of peace.” wrote George Macleod, founder of the Iona Community. He was one of a number of faith leaders who in 1974 signed ‘A Call to Prayer for World Peace’. They wrote “Believing that God is calling us to pray with new purpose and deeper understanding for peace and justice among all people, we invite our fellow believers of all faiths to join in a WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE”.

The call went on to say “Patience will need to be an essential feature of this united act of prayer so that we may all not only learn from the past errors but also be open to fresh insights which the unprecedented modern situation demands”. Sadly, these words are still pertinent today, in the third decade of the 21st century.

We are convinced that there is only one humanity praying to one supreme Creator, with whatever different opinions we may have on what that may be. We recognise that interfaith partnership does not in itself imply agreement. WPWP invites all people to join in praying for peace on our shared earth under one sky.

The things we agree on are many and precious. What we disagree on is precious too. We stand alongside all who pray for peace with us as partners and friends.

Supporters

The theme of this leaflet has been approved for worldwide distribution by the Week of Prayer for World Peace multi-faith committee based in Great Britain. Religious communities everywhere are encouraged to celebrate the Week both in their observances and together with people of different faiths.

In New Zealand the Week of Prayer for World Peace is supported by: The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations; National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of New Zealand; New Zealand Buddhist Community; New Zealand Hindu Faith; New Zealand Federation of Islamic Associations; New Zealand Jewish Community; Anglican Pacifist Fellowship; New Zealand Pacifist Society; Society of Friends (Quakers) NZ; Presbyterian Church; Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University; and the Wellington Interfaith Council.

For information

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Please let us know how you observe the Week of Prayer for World Peace