

Prayer for Peace

International Day of Peace: September 21st

Theme

The United Nations has chosen the theme *Peace = Future: Youth, Peace and Development* for this year's observance of the International Day of Peace. The theme connects the Millennium Development Goals and the UN International Year of Youth.

Setup

Place a candle (and symbols of peace) on a ritual table in the center of your gathering. Consider inviting youth or young adults to join you in prayer.



Song: Select a peace song like *Prayer of St. Francis* or *This is My Song*

Leader: Spirit of Life, you call us to walk in your light toward a world at peace. Be with us now as we pray for a peaceful future, in hope and solidarity with the world's youth.

Reader: "God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Come, let us walk in the light of our God!" (Isaiah 2:3-5)

Leader: As people called to faith in the Spirit of Life, we embrace our role as peacemakers. Many spiritual leaders have taught us that peace must be learned. Young people teach us that we must also dream of a world at peace. Grant us the grace to grow together in peace.

🌍 **Reader:** "If we wish to create a lasting peace we must begin with the children." —*Mahatma Gandhi*
All: May we grow in peace.

🌍 **Reader:** "Wherever I go peace is with me, because without peace there is no one."
—*Student Peace Poem, Croatia*

All: May we grow in peace.

🌍 **Reader:** "For it isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it." —*Eleanor Roosevelt*
All: May we grow in peace.


🌍 **Reader:** "As I look around the world I sigh, and think, we could at least give peace a try."
—*Student Peace Poem, United States*

All: May we grow in peace


🌍 **Reader:** "Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free." —*Dalai Lama*
All: May we grow in peace.

🌍 **Reader:** "Peace remained by my side until I understood what she wanted from me—That I be free." —*Student Peace Poem, Brazil*

All: May we grow in peace.

 **Reader:** “We must do everything we can to consolidate the peace. We must heal the wounds of war.” –*Ellen Johnson Sirleaf—Africa’s first woman elected head of state*

All: May we grow in peace.

 **Reader:** “Let Peace be like a flowing river. Flowing into the open hearts of humanity.”
–*Student Peace Poem, Zambia*

All: May we grow in peace.

Reflect & Share

Leader: Let’s take a few moments of quiet to consider which peacemaker quote invites you to grow in peace. After the quiet I will invite you to share a brief reflection.

Offering of Prayers for Peace

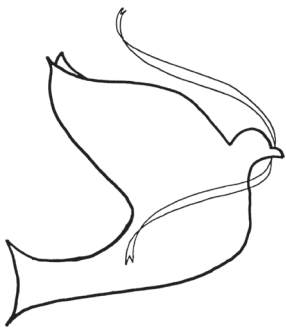
You are invited to offer a prayer in the company of those gathered this day.

Silent Reflection








Let’s take a few moments of contemplative quiet to send our prayers to our youth that they may have the courage to stand up for and dream of peace.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Spirit of Life, we join in prayer today with people of good will from every nation. Inspire our national leaders to make decisions that reduce poverty, restore human dignity, and promote peace. Bless our youth with your grace to continue to dream and work for peace. Guide each of us as we walk in your light toward a world at peace. **Amen**



Act for Peace

-  Pray for peace individually and communally.
-  Organize a prayer vigil for peace at church, work, or in your neighborhood
-  Write your legislators in support of policies that promote peace & development
-  Consider mentoring a youth or young adult in your community
-  Participate in organizations that promote peace and justice
-  Partner with youth on a peace project
-  Learn more about the Millennium Development Goals

Student Peace Poems excerpted from www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/peaceday/poem