

Prayer for Peace

International Day of Peace: September 21st

Setup: Place a candle on a ritual table in the center of your gathering. Suggest that people bring a bell to be rung during the litany response.

Song: Select a peace song like *Prayer of St. Francis* or *Let There Be Peace*

Leader: Loving One, we yearn for peace between all nations and peoples of the earth. We acknowledge our dependence upon you and ask for forgiveness where nationalism overshadows your desire for unity, peace, and mercy. We come to you in a time of global insecurity and ask of you to fill us with wisdom to act justly towards one another.

Reader: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of God...” (Matthew 5: 43-45)

Leader: Your grace and desire for peace and unity has touched all humankind. Many great spiritual leaders and texts have emphasized “another way,” a peaceful approach, that focuses on human dignity and non-violence. Ring your bells as we respond: Happy the peacemakers.

Reader: “God created humans in God’s image; in the divine image God created them; male and female God created them.”—Genesis 1: 27

All: Blessed are the peacemakers.

Reader: “Every being is an abode of God, worthy of respect and reverence.”—Hindu Scriptures

All: Blessed are the peacemakers.

Reader: “Conquer anger by love. Conquer evil by good. Hatreds never cease through hatred in this world; through love alone they cease. This is an essential law.”—Buddha

All: Blessed are the peacemakers.

Reader: “Whoever rejects evil and believes in God has grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold, that never breaks.”—Holy Q’uran

All: Blessed are the peacemakers.

Reader: “Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon which cuts without wounding and ennoble the one who wields it. It is a sword that heals.”—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

All: Blessed are the peacemakers.

Reader: “Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of humankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction.”—Mahatma Gandhi

All: Blessed are the peacemakers.

Silent Reflection

Pray for peace. Send your prayers to people and leaders in Iraq and around the world.

Offering of Prayers for Peace

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

Leader: God, we know it can be difficult at times to live peacefully if we feel threatened and afraid. Bless us with your grace to be instruments of peace trusting in your promise to always be with us. **Amen.**



- ✦ Pray for peace individually and communally
- ✦ Light a candle for peace in your home, church or a public place
- ✦ Write your Congressperson
- ✦ Organize a prayer vigil for peace at church, work, or in your neighborhood
- ✦ Participate in organizations that promote peace and justice
- ✦ Learn more about the people of Iraq, Afghanistan
- ✦ Discuss with family and friends about responses to international conflict in light of the gospel message
- ✦ Consider joining with others in a pledge of nonviolence for a specific amount of time—a day, week, month or year