

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Let there be peace

O God, who dwells beyond all our names for you,
we pray for the will to be at peace with one another.

We remember this day those who find themselves thrust into war;

We pray for light in the darkness, and hope amid despair.

We pray for peace in ourselves;

help us to breathe in peace, help us to breathe out love;

help us know and accept ourselves as your beloved.

We pray for peace in our families;

help us to speak the truth to one another in love;

help us to respect and value one another.

Let there be peace in our communities;

help us to create a peace born of justice and equity;

help us to honor and serve the common good.

Let there be peace in our nation;

sustain our hope; grant us wisdom; empower us with courage.

Let there be peace in our world.

Help us to love the earth as our mother;

help us to see other nations as our neighbors;

help us to wage peace.

Let there be peace, O God, for those in need;

for those who are frightened, for those who have been displaced,

for those who are ill, for those who need work.

Let there be peace, O God, for all of us

who are tempted to give in to fear and despair.

Let there be peace in our time;

And let it begin with us.

Amen.

**from a Litany for Peace by the Reverend Kay Sylvester
Rector, St. Paul's, Tustin – Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles**

Lord God,

Our hearts are heavy with the pain and chaos we see around the world. Innocent lives are caught in the crossfire of pride, greed, and power. Families are torn apart, children are left without homes, and fear echoes in the hearts of many.

We come to You, Lord, with humble hearts, asking for Your mercy upon all mankind. Let Your peace flow through nations, across borders, and into every home. Calm the storms of hatred, silence the drums of war, and replace pride with compassion.

Touch the hearts and minds of world leaders. Remove the blindness brought by pride and power. Enlighten them with wisdom, humility, and love. May they choose peace over violence, dialogue over destruction, and unity over division.

Lord, heal our broken world.

Let us not grow tired of praying, hoping, and believing. May we, in our own little ways, be instruments of Your peace and love.

Amen.

Prayer for Peace—St. John Paul II

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are Yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, “Peace to you” – please grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.

May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters.
May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

Amen.

Lead Us

Lord,

Lead us from death to life,
From falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world and our universe.
Let us dream together, pray together and work together,
To build one world of peace and justice for all.

Author unknown

A Prayer for Peace

We are molded, each one of us,
in the image of God,
and within our souls there is a fingerprint
none can erase.

We pray for those who have no regard
for anyone but self,
who put no value on human life.

For nations and individuals who abuse and kill.

We are not called to be judge or jury,
but we are called to be agents of change,
and if the butterfly that flaps its wings
should be our attitude to others
then so be it, Lord,
and may the hurricane this generates
somewhere within the world
reach into the hearts and souls of those
for whom we pray, and reveal to them
how precious are those
for whom they have no love,
and how precious are they
who now bring tears to the eyes of God.
- John Birch

For Courage to Do Justice

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that they need not be without succor;
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
And use me to bring them to those places.
And so open my eyes and my ears
That I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee.
- Alan Paton, South Africa, United Methodist Hymnal #456

Prayer for Peace in the Middle East

God of mercy and compassion,
of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians,
Palestinians and Israelis.

Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope,
oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation,
that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces,
and peace and justice could be experienced by all.
- Reverend Said Ailabouni

Prayer for a World Where Hope Seems Dim

Dear God, the world seems so dark and foreboding.

Where are the signs of hope?

What are you calling us to do?

Wars, uprisings, displacements, hunger, poverty, and disease continue to claim victims by the millions around the world each year.

Our ears do not want to hear their stories and our eyes do not want to see their plight because the suffering and destruction is so massive and cruel.

In our hearts and minds there is a desire to help somehow, but the crisis seems so overwhelming that we shake our heads in dismay, and we wonder what the point is for us even to attempt to be witnesses for healing and hope in this hellish morass.

We beg with the song writer to open our eyes that we may see glimpses of truth you have for us.

Help us to follow the path of Jesus, the Suffering Servant. Give us the courage to be willing to walk the path of depression and pain with the victims of injustice here at home as well as abroad.

Help us to seek ways to light candles of hope, however small, through our words, our deeds, and our prayers, to encourage our sisters and brothers to hold onto the faith in spite of the pain and suffering they are facing.

And help those of us who are among the fortunate ones, who have enough bread to eat, good health, and who live in relative peace, to open our heart to learn from our sisters and brothers who are living lives of grace and forgiveness in the horrid circumstances which surround them. O God, help us to light one candle rather than to curse the darkness.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who knows what being a light in this dark world is all about.

- Larry Kehler, Mennonite Central Committee, Canada, 2009