

Prayer Service for 21st September - International Day of Peace

The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Shaping Peace Together.” Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic. Stand together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred. Join us so that we can shape peace together.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>



Leader: We first prepare the room to create an atmosphere of peace. Sit in a circle and sit comfortably. Open your hands and relax. Breathe in Peace and breathe out the negative.

Introduction: We join with the global community around the world to pray for peace. Let us recall that each of us by baptism and vocation are called to be a channel of God’s peace. We gather here as a community of believers to celebrate the International Day of Peace. We are reminded that we are all part of one global human family living together in a world that remains broken and divided. We join in prayer hoping that the universal desire for peace may be realized. Let us ask our God to help us, to recognize our Shepherd God’s call to each one of us to commit ourselves to the effort of peace in the world.

At this time of a global pandemic people are suffering in various ways -- not being able to go to work or losing friends and family members to the rapid spreading of COVID-19. During this pandemic people are also faced with natural disasters due to climate change, growing inequality, other illnesses and the on-going of war and conflict. Young people are desperate, depressed, disappointed in life, and despondent. At this time of lockdown our usual service and ministry has been put on pause. We are not able to admit people into our institutions or visit villages or slums and meet people. Our communications are only through media. Our services are cut down and limited. Many of us have become 'contemplatives' during this new time.

Opening hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (*or any Hymn for peace*)

As we reflect on this International Day of Peace, let us consider the following questions:

- How do we experience Peace within and around us at this point of great crisis in the world?
- How can we be connected with those who are really suffering physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially as they are afflicted by poverty, sickness, lack of hope?
- In this moment, how can we be "Peacemakers"? Can we peacefully accept this stage of life?

Look at the sun, it rises and celebrates peace. The sky embraces and celebrates peace. Winds and storms blow and celebrate peace. Rivers and seas continue to flow and celebrate peace. The chirping of birds bring peace. Peacocks dance when it thunders and celebrate peace. Trees' blooms bring fruits to the people and celebrate peace. We are locked in with our Shepherd God who is the source of peace and comfort and we celebrate peace. Thus we owe to be 'peace' at all levels to all people and creation.
(Pause)

Let us turn to our Shepherd God and creator, the source and origin of Peace. Let us pray to our Shepherd God and acknowledge God's patient waiting for our return. On behalf of the World, Church, Congregation, Benefactors and Beneficiaries we ask for pardon for all our negative ways where peace is disturbed and violence entered. We ask you, Shepherd God, to give us grace to be aware of your peace within and share it to others around us. Give us peace and serenity to seek and search what is lost in us, in the church and in the world.

Jesus is the source and origin of peace. Peace can be found only in the silence and quietness, in meeting one's own Creator.

Peace is Powerful;

Peace is Effective;

Peace is Attentive;

Peace is Caring;

Peace is Enduring;

(Reflect a while and share if you feel called to.)

The following prayer is recommended. You may feel moved to create your own.

Leader : Prayer: Loving God, creator of all things, Lord of the Universe, you were thinking of each one of us from the beginning of creation. You created us with an unconditional love, and sent us to the earth to glorify you and serve your people in peace and harmony. When we did not listen to you, you sent us many prophets and spoke to us through them, yet we did not listen. Finally you sent us your only Son, Jesus, a human like us. He lived among us as a mediator between you and us. He taught us how to follow your will, he showed us the way to you and he suffered for us and died and was risen. Today as humanity struggles in confusion, desperation, depression, we raise our hearts, hands and minds to you. Lord have mercy on us.

Response: Lord forgive us our iniquities and give us once again your everlasting peace and hope that you alone can give us. (*Share the intercession*)

We pray for the whole world: for the sick and suffering - mentally, emotionally and physically- especially those who are affected by COVID-19. Jesus, healer of the sick and downtrodden, heal them, give them courage, strength and closeness to you during their suffering; bless them with your Holy Spirit so that they may listen to your word and return to you.

Response

We pray for the Church: Lord Jesus of mercy and compassion, we have wandered away searching for position, pleasure, power and wealth. Lord Jesus, lover of humanity, you gave yourself to us and waited for us to return to you. We come to you Lord with a contrite heart and humbly ask you to accept us and renew us in your spirit and make us once again your followers, who will find PEACE in your will.

Response

We pray for the medical personal: Bless them Lord for their selfless service, give them strength and courage to go through this pandemic period. May their service bring healing and wholeness to the patients and relatives. May they experience your peace and serenity. May their families be abundantly blessed.

Response

We pray for Government Officials who are making decisions: God of Peace bless each one of the leaders with wisdom and knowledge to guide and lead our countries in the interest of the people in their care. Prevent them from selfishness and self-interest and give them the graces they need to lead the Nations in truth and honesty, in justice and righteousness so that people may experience peace and harmony.

Response

We pray for each of us in our Good Shepherd family: Sisters, Partners in Mission, benefactors, beneficiaries, staff and volunteers and all associated with us, that we may live in the hollow of your hands so that all who come in contact with us experience a healing touch and wholeness, peace and harmony.

Response

We pray for the marginalized in our society: especially un-wed mothers and unborn babies: Through the intercession of Mother Mary, Queen of peace we ask you Shepherd God to bless them, give them courage in this particular moment to do what is right and help them to find what they need: nourishment, shelter, medical care and hope for the future for themselves and their babies. Bless childless couples, bless orphan children and abandoned babies, older people, and all persons who are mentally and physically challenged that they may find comfort and peace through many dedicated people to serve them.

Response

We pray for the youth of today: Loving Shepherd be close to them, send your spirit upon them that they may carry your will and peace in all that they do. Bless the youth searching for jobs and those who face disappointment with life. Shepherd God be their companion.

Response

Pause for a while. Members may add to the intercession.

**Looking at the light /lamp receiving the light and peace, let us send vibrations to the whole world.
(Pause and say the Our Father)**



Closing Prayer: Touch the hearts of those who are generous to people living in poverty and protect the earth. Teach us to discover the interconnectedness of all life and be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Charge our lives and our churches with the power of your peace, O God. Overcome our fears and self-deceptions with the promise of your presence. In this time of diminishing resources for families and nations, make us signs of your generosity and justice. We pray each day with hope that we may walk in your truth. Amen

“Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all, to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty”.

- *Blessed Archbishop Oscar Romer (Hymn)*

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Prepared in English