

## THE SACRED PRAYERS FOR PEACE

On October 27, 1986, spiritual leaders from each of the world's twelve major religions came together for the first time in history to share their most sacred prayers for the Day of World Peace, celebrated in Assisi, Italy, in commemoration of the United Nations International Year of Peace.

As an Episcopal Church and members of the worldwide Anglican Communion, we at St. Paul's Chapel honor the call for mutual respect, compassion and reconciliation that these moving orations continue to represent.

We also offer them as an invitation to people of faith from every tradition to join us, both through common prayer and private reflection, in proclaiming the dignity of every human being and all of God's creation.

### The Prayer of St. Francis

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.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console,  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved, as to love.  
For it is in giving, that we receive,  
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned,  
It is in dying, that we are born to eternal life.

### Baha'i Prayer for Peace

Be generous in prosperity,  
and thankful in adversity.  
Be fair in judgement,  
and guarded in thy speech,  
Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness,  
and a home to the stranger.  
Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light  
unto the feet of the erring.  
Be a breath of life to the body of humankind,  
a dew to the soil of the human heart,  
and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

### Buddhist Prayer for Peace

May all beings everywhere plagued  
with sufferings of body and mind  
be quickly freed from their illnesses.  
May those frightened cease to be afraid,  
and may those bound be free.  
May the powerless find power,  
and may people think of befriending  
one another.  
May those who find themselves in trackless,  
fearful wilderness—  
the children, the aged, the unprotected—  
be guarded by beneficial celestials,  
and may they swiftly attain Buddhahood.

### Muslim Prayer for Peace

In the name of Allah,  
the beneficent, the merciful,  
Praise be to the Lord of the Universe  
who has created us and made us  
into tribes and nations  
That we may know each other, not that  
we may despise each other.  
If the enemy incline towards peace,  
do thou also incline towards peace, and  
trust God, for the Lord is the one that  
heareth and knoweth all things.  
And the servants of God,  
Most gracious are those who walk on  
the Earth in humility, and when we  
address them, we say "PEACE."

### Native African Prayer for Peace

Almighty God, the Great Thumb  
we cannot evade to tie any knot;  
the Roaring Thunder that splits mighty trees;  
the all-seeing Lord up on high who sees  
even the footprints of an antelope on  
a rock mass here on Earth.  
You are the one who does  
not hesitate to respond to our call.  
You are the cornerstone of peace.  
you provide for us on this Earth.

### Native American Prayer for Peace

Oh Great Spirit of our Ancestors,  
I raise my pipe to you.  
To your messengers the four winds, and  
to Mother Earth who provides for your children.  
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 of mind  
Let us learn to share all good things that  
you provide for us on this Earth.

### Shinto Prayer for Peace

Although the people living across the ocean  
surrounding us, I believe  
are all our brothers and sisters,  
why are there constant troubles in this world?  
Why do winds and waves rise in the  
oceans surrounding us?  
I only earnestly wish that the wind will  
soon puff away all the clouds which are  
hanging over the tops of mountains.

### Sikh Prayer for Peace

God adjudges us according  
to our deeds,  
not the coat that we wear,  
that Truth is above everything,  
but higher still is truthful living.  
Know that we attaineth God when we loveth,  
and only victory endures in consequences  
of which no one is defeated.

## Zoroastrian Prayer for Peace

We pray to God to eradicate all the  
misery in the world:  
that understanding triumph over ignorance,  
that generosity triumph over indifference,  
that trust triumph over contempt, and  
that truth triumph over falsehood.

## Christian Prayer for Peace

Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS,  
for they shall be known as  
the Children of God.  
But I say to you that hear, love your enemies,  
do good to those who hate you,  
bless those who curse you  
pray for those who abuse you.  
To those that strike you on the cheek,  
offer the other one also,  
and from those who take away your cloak,  
do not withhold your coat as well.  
Give to everyone who begs from you,  
and of those who take away your goods,  
do not ask for them again.  
And as you wish that others would do to you,  
do so to them.

## Hindu Prayer for Peace

Oh God, lead us from the  
unreal to the Real.  
Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.  
Oh God, lead us from death to immortality.  
Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.  
Oh Lord God almighty,  
may there be peace in celestial regions.  
May there be peace on Earth.  
May the waters be appeasing.  
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.  
May thy Vedic Law propagate peace all  
through the world.  
May all things be a source of peace to us.  
And may thy peace itself, bestow peace on all  
and may that peace come to me also.

## Jainist Prayer for Peace

Peace and Universal Love is the essence  
of the Gospel preached by all  
Enlightened Ones.  
The Lord has preached that equanimity is the Dharma.  
Forgive do-I creatures all,  
and let all creatures forgive me.  
Unto all have I amity, and unto none enmity.  
Know that violence is the root cause of  
all miseries in the world.  
Violence, in fact, is the knot of bondage.  
"Do not injure any living being."  
This is the eternal, perennial, and unalterable  
way of spiritual life.  
A weapon, howsoever powerful it may be,  
can always be superseded by a superior one;  
but no weapon can, however,  
be superior to nonviolence and love.

## Jewish Prayer for Peace

Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
that we may walk the paths of the Most High.  
And we shall beat our swords into plowshares,  
and our spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation.  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.  
And none shall be afraid,  
for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.