

PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS FOR PEACE FROM DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

May peace prevail on Earth - *World Peace Organization*

"Seek peace, and pursue it." - *The Bible - Psalm 34*

"Like the bee gathering honey from the different flowers, the wise person accepts the essence of the different scriptures and sees only the good in all religions."

Mahatma Gandhi

Many voices, one desire - Peace

Bahá'í - Be a breath of life unto the body of humankind a dew upon the human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

Buddhist - May all beings everywhere be happy, peaceful, and free.

Christian - Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Blessed be the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God.

Confucian - First there must be order and harmony within your own heart. Only then can there be peace and harmony in the world.

Hindu - Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the Real, from darkness to light, from death to immortality. God's peace, peace, peace to all.

Jain - Peace and universal love is the essence of all the teachings. Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me.

Jewish - Oh come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the paths of the Most High. And we will beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning hooks.

Muslim - 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 despise each other.

Native African - For you are one who does not hesitate to respond to our call, you are the cornerstone of peace.

Native American - Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect and to be kind to one another that we may grow with peace in mind.

Shinto - We earnestly wish that the wind will soon puff away all the clouds hanging over the tops of the mountains.

Sikh - Know that we find God when we love, and only that victory endures in consequence of which no one is defeated.

Zoroastrian - We pray to God that understanding will triumph over ignorance, that generosity will triumph over indifference, that trust will triumph over contempt, and that truth will triumph over falsehood

A Selection of Prayers and Reflections for Peace – By Religion

Bahá'í Prayer for Peace

O Thou kind Lord! Thou hast created all humanity from the same original parents. Thou hast intended that all belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are Thy servants and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle. All have gathered at Thy table of bounty and are radiant through the light of Thy providence. O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, Thou dost shelter all, Thou dost confer life upon all. Thou hast endowed all with talents and faculties; all are submerged in the ocean of Thy mercy. O Thou kind Lord! Unite all, let the religions agree, make the nations one so that they may be as one kind and as children of the same fatherland. God! upraise the standard of the oneness of humankind. O God! Establish the Most Great Peace. Cement the hearts together, O God! O Thou kind Father, God! Exhilarate the hearts through the fragrance of Thy love; brighten the eyes through the light of Thy guidance; cheer the hearing with the melodies of Thy Word and shelter us in the cave of Thy providence. Thou art the Mighty and Powerful! Thou art the Forgiving and Thou art the One Who overlookest the shortcomings of humankind.

Buddhist Prayers for Peace

The thought manifests as the word;
The word manifests as the deed;
The deed develops into habit;
And habit hardens into character.
So watch the thought and its ways with care,
And let it spring from love
Born out of concern for all beings.

The Buddha

One of the basic points is kindness. With kindness, with love and compassion, with this feeling that is the essence of brotherhood, sisterhood, one will have inner peace. This compassionate feeling is the basis of inner peace.

The Dalai Lama

May creatures all abound in health and peace
May all be blessed with peace always.
Let none taunt or ridicule
His fellow anywhere
Let none wish others harm
In anger or hate.
Just as, with her own body, a mother
Shields from hurt her own, her only child,
Let all-embracing thoughts
For all that lives be thine---
An all embracing love for all the universe
In all its heights and depths and breadth,
Unstinting love, unmarred by hate within...

The Sutta Nipata Sutra

May every creature abound in well-being and peace.
 May every living being, weak or strong, the long and the small
 The short and the medium-sized, the mean and the great
 May every living being, seen or unseen, those dwelling far off,
 Those near by, those already born, those waiting to be born
 May all attain inward peace.

Let no one deceive another
 Let no one despise another in any situation
 Let no one, from antipathy or hatred, wish evil to anyone at all.
 Just as a mother, with her own life, protects her only son from hurt
 So within yourself foster a limitless concern for every creature.
 Display a heart of boundless love for all the world
 In all its height and depth and broad extent
 Love unrestrained, without hate or enmity.
 Then as you stand or walk, sit or lie, until overcome by drowsiness
 Devote your mind entirely to this, it is known as living here life divine.

The Buddha

As we are together, praying for Peace, let us be truly with each other.

Silence

Let us pay attention to our breathing.

Silence

Let us be relaxed in our bodies and our minds.

Silence

Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds.

Silence

Let us return to ourselves and become wholly ourselves. Let us maintain a half-smile on our faces.

Silence

Let us be aware of the source of being common to us all and to all living things.

Silence

Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion, let us fill our hearts with our own compassion—towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Silence

Let us pray that all living beings realize that they are all brothers and sisters, all nourished from the same source of life.

Silence

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be the cause of suffering to each other.

Silence

Let us plead with ourselves to live in a way which will not deprive other living beings of air, water, food shelter, or the chance to live.

Silence

With humility, with awareness of the existence of life, and of the sufferings that are going on around us, let us pray for the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.

Amen

Thich Nhat Hahn
 A Buddhist Litany for Peace

Celtic Peace Prayer from Antiquity

Deep Peace of the running wave to you
 Deep Peace of the flowing air to you
 Deep Peace of the quiet earth to you
 Deep Peace of the shining stars to you
 Deep peace of the shades of night to you
 Moon and stars always giving Light to you.

Christian Prayers 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 who strike you on the cheek, offer the other 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 them again.
 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion,
 kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each
 other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect
 harmony.

The Bible - Colossians 3: 12-14

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness,
 quietness and assurance for ever.
 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in
 quiet resting places.

The Bible - Isaiah 32: 17-18

Let us go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is
 good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
 help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power
 of the Holy Spirit.

Christian Blessing

Hindu Prayers 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 (peace), 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 herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all.
 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.

Hindu Daily Prayer for Peace

This and this alone
 Is true religion-
 To serve thy brethren:

This is sin above all other sin,
 To harm they brethren:

In such a faith is happiness,
 In lack of it is misery and pain:

Blessed is he who swerveth not aside
 From this strait path:
 Blessed is he whose life is lived
 This ceaselessly in serving God:

By bearing others' burdens,
 And so alone,
 Is life, true life, to be attained:

Nothing is hard to him who, casting self aside,
 Thinks only this-
 How may I serve my fellow-men.

Tulsidas - Translated from Sanskrit by M. Ghandi

Let us be united;
 Let us speak in harmony;
 Let our minds apprehend alike.
 Common be our prayer;
 Common be the end of our assembly;
 Common be our resolution;
 Common be our deliberations.
 Alike be our feelings;
 Unified our hearts;
 Common be our intentions;
 Perfect be our unity.

The Rig-Veda

Lead me from death to life,
 from falsehood to truth.
 Lead me from despair to hope,

from fear to trust.
 Lead me from hate to love,
 from war to peace.
 Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.
 Peace, peace, peace.

Adapted from the Hindu Upanishads by Satish Kumar

Jainist Prayers for Peace

Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel preached by all the 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.

Jainist Prayer

Jewish Prayers 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 ploughshares,
 and our spears into pruning hooks.
 Nation shall not lift up sword against nation—
 neither shall they learn war any more.
 And none shall be afraid,
 for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.

Seek peace in your own place. You cannot find peace anywhere save in your own self. In the psalm we read: "There is no peace in my bones because of my sin." When a person has made peace within, that person will be able to make peace in the whole world.

Rabbi Bunam

Grant us peace. Your most precious gift, O Eternal Source of Peace, and give us the will to proclaim its message to all the peoples of the earth. bless our country, that it may always be a stronghold of peace, and its advocate among the nations. May contentment reign within its borders, health and happiness within its homes. Strengthen the bonds of friendship among the inhabitants of all lands. And may the love of Your name hallow every home and every heart. Blessed is the Eternal God, the source of Peace.

*From The Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book,
 by the Central Conferences of American Rabbis*

Muslim Peace Prayers

We are aware that all generations of our ancestors and all future generations are present in us.

For them is an abode of peace;
and their Lord,
He is their patron for
what they have done

The Qur'an 6: 127

Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations. Give us wisdom that we may know each other and not despise all things. We shall abide by thy Peace. And, we shall remember the servants of God are those who walk on this earth in humility and, when we address them, we shall say Peace unto us all.

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 rockmass here on Earth.
You are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.
You are the cornerstone of peace.

Native American Prayers for Peace

You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground they spit upon themselves.

This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.

Chief Seattle

O 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 in mind.
Let us learn to share all the good things 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 ocean surrounding us?
I only earnestly wish that the wind will soon puff away
all the clouds which are hanging over the tops of the 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 that victory endures in consequence of which no one is defeated.

Know that we attain God when we love,
and only that victory endures in consequence of which no one is defeated.

Sufi Prayers for Peace

May there be peace in the higher regions; may there be peace in the firmament;
may there be peace on earth. May the waters flow peacefully; may the herbs and
plants grow peacefully; may all the divine powers bring unto us peace. The supreme
Lord is peace. May we all be in peace, peace, and only peace; and may that peace
come unto each of us.

Shanti (peace) Shanti---Shanti!

The Vedas, trans. Raimundo Panniker

Send Thy peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting, that our souls may radiate
peace.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may think, act, and speak harmoniously.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may be contented and thankful for Thy bountiful
gifts.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife we may enjoy Thy bliss.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may endure all, tolerate all, in the thought of Thy
grace and mercy.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a divine vision, and in Thy light
all darkness may vanish.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we, Thy children on earth, may
all unite in one family. Amen

from Hazrat Inayat Khan (1882-1927)

Taoist Prayers for Peace

If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart

Lao-Tse

The peace of one individual is small. The peace of many people together is big. When we see ourselves as separate from our community and from nature, then violence and strife arise. It is only when we understand our part in an overall unity that there is the possibility of peace on a large scale.

Deng Ming Dao

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.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
Prayers for World Peace Day

For World Peace Day Sept. 21, 2007

St. Francis of Assisi Prayer

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;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O 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;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

For World Peace Day Sept 21, 2006

Prayer for Peace

God of all goodness,

You have been our refuge from generation to generation.

Your will is that peace should shine on all people everywhere.

With your spirit, guide the efforts of humankind to bring peace and justice to the nations of the earth, and give strength to rulers and all who work to establish peace and justice in the world.

Inspire those who come together in search of ways to bring about peace, and through your word, change the hearts of all people so that we shall strive for:

Peace, and not war,

The Common Good, rather than individual wellbeing,

Your Justice, instead of our own glory.

You have given us your peace. Enable us to share that peace with those around us, so that love and harmony may be always present in our lives, that all the world may know happiness, that we may live with dignity as brothers and sisters, and that all may rejoice in your presence. United in diversity, we call upon your infinite grace, humbly asking you to receive our prayer and make us instruments of your peace.

Amen.

For World Peace Day Sept. 21, 2005

God, you are the God of life.

Transform us in the depths of our hearts into people, through whom your peace is carried forth into your world.

Send your Spirit into the hearts of those

who are captured in the net of violence

be it as perpetrators or as victims

and let us never give up the search

for the chance to talk to them.

World Council of Churches (1991):

The following prayer authored by Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy was used in many places in inter-religious worships around the time of the Gulf War in 1991:

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but You.
 Great and wonderful are Your works, wondrous are your ways.
 Thank You for the many splendoured variety of Your creation.
 Thank You for the many ways we affirm Your presence and purpose,
 and the freedom to do so.
 Forgive our violation of Your creation.
 Forgive our violence toward each other.
 We stand in awe and gratitude for Your persistent love
 for each and all of Your children:
 Christian, Jew, Muslim,
 as well as those with other faiths.
 Grant to all and our leaders attributes of the strong;
 mutual respect in words and deed,
 restraint in the exercise of power, and
 the will for peace with justice, for all.
 Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but You. Amen.

The following prayer is taken from a Monday morning worship in the Ecumenical Centre:

O Lord, you love justice and you establish peace on earth.
 We bring before you the disunity of today's world;
 the absurd violence, and the many wars,
 which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world;
 human greed and injustice,
 which breed hatred and strife.
 Send your spirit and renew the face of the earth;
 teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family;
 strengthen the will of all those
 who fight for justice and for peace,
 and give us that peace which the world cannot give.
 All: Amen.

The following two texts are taken from the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle on the Gulf region:

O God, who art the unsearchable abyss of peace,
 the ineffable sea of love, the fountain of blessings
 and the bestower of affection,
 who sendest peace to those that receive it;
 Open to us this day the sea of thy love
 and water us with plenteous streams
 from the riches of thy grace
 and from the most sweet springs of thy kindness.
 Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace,
 enkindle in us the fire of thy love;
 sow in us thy fear;
 strengthen our weakness by thy power;
 bind us closely to thee and to each other
 in our firm and indissoluble bond of unity:

Syrian Clementine Liturgy (in: For all God's people; p. 73)

Other Ecumenical Prayers for Peace:

Prayer for Peace with Iraq:

Lord of hope and compassion, Friend of Abraham
 Who called our father in faith to journey to a new future,
 We remember before you the country of Iraq from which he was summoned
 Ancient land of the Middle East, realm of the two rivers,
 Birthplace of great cities and of civilization.
 May we who name ourselves children of Abraham,
 Call to mind all the peoples of the Middle East who honour him as father.
 Those who guard and celebrate the Torah,
 Those for whom the Word has walked on earth and lived among us
 Those who follow their prophet, who listened for the word in the desert
 And shaped a community after what he heard.
 Lord of reconciliation, God of the painful sacrifice uniting humankind
 We long for the day when you will provide for all nations of the earth your blessing of
 peace.
 But now when strife and war are at hand, help us to see in each other a family
 likeness,
 our inheritance from our one father Abraham.
 Keep hatred from the threshold of our hearts, and preserve within us a generous
 spirit
 which recognizes in both foe and friend a common humanity.
 This we ask in the name of the one who came to offer us the costly gift of abundant
 life.

(In Arabic Abraham is often called "El Khalil" which means 'the Friend [of God]'. Ur
 and Haran, the cities from which, according to Genesis, Abraham was summoned by
 God both lie within the territory of modern Iraq.)

Iona Community – <http://www.iona.org.uk/>

We come to you, God Creator.
 You are the source of life and beauty and power.
 Your son Jesus is the way of faith and hope and love.
 Your Spirit is the fire of love, the fount of wisdom, the bond of unity.
 You call us at all times to be people of the beatitudes,
 Witnesses to the Gospel of peace and love and forgiveness.
 You call us at this time, when war and rumours of war,
 weigh heavily on the peoples of Iraq and the Middle East.
 Their lives are already broken by suffering and violence.
 We renew our acceptance of your call.
 We promise to work:
 To bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness,
 To bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair,
 To bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely,
 the disadvantaged, the marginalized,
 And to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world. Amen.

Pax Christi UK – <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/Iraq.html>

"Lord, we pray fervently for the people of Iraq facing the horror of a full-scale war, and for those people who may be called upon to fight. Help us to persuade world leaders to continue negotiations. Help all of us: individuals, nations, governments and world leaders to remember -- the unnecessary loss of life for millions of innocent people, the scale of human suffering that war brings, the right of Iraqi people to determine their own future, the gross violations of human rights and crimes against humanity that are committed in the name of war, nobody has total power over any country or its people but God alone. Let us be open to God's words in our forthcoming decisions and try not to be God ourselves."

Church of England - <http://www.invitationtoprayer.org/prayers.html>

For lasting peace in this ancient land – From you, O Lord.
 For wisdom and compassion for all in authority – From you, O Lord.
 For comfort for families separated or bereaved – From you, O Lord.
 For the release of captives – From you, O Lord.
 For safety and security for minority communities.
 For refreshment for the weary and healing for the sick – From you, O Lord.
 For continuing faithfulness of the ancient churches of this land – From you, O Lord.
 For tenacity of spirit for small Christian groups – From you, O Lord.
 For the mutual enrichment and support of those of different Christian traditions – From you, O Lord.
 You, Lord of all, we confess;
 You, Lord Jesus, we glorify;
 For you are the life of our bodies
 And you are the Saviour of our souls.

Prayer for Iraq from the Chaldean liturgy

Dear God, we give thanks for places of simplicity and peace. Let us find such a place within ourselves. We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty. Let us find such a place within ourselves. We give thanks for places of nature's truth and freedom, of joy, inspiration and renewal, places where all creatures may find acceptance and belonging. Let us search for these places: in the world, in ourselves and in others. Let us restore them. Let us strengthen and protect them and let us create them. May we mend this outer world according to the truth of our inner life and may our souls be shaped and nourished by nature's eternal wisdom. Amen.

Leunig

Knowing
 We Are All Essentially Divine
 We All Are One
 Our Embodiment and Demonstration of The Principle of Goodwill
 Our Conscious Distribution of Goodwill Energies
 To all Endeavors Cooperating with
 The Healing of The Nations
 Will Lead to the Peace
 We All Desire
 So Be It.

CommonPassion.org's Shared Intentions