

PEACE POD PRAYERS

Just to stimulate and get you started, not to preclude other possibilities

I.

God of many names and surpassing truth,
you who loved creation into being and whose love walks with us
through every valley and shadow,
help us in this time to recognize your presence,
to find our strength by your leading, our courage in your guidance,
be our Good Shepherd we pray.

As we trust in you, so we call on you
to hear in your great love all who appeal to you for health and hope and justice and peace.
Help us lean forward into the truth that you are the One from whom all blessings flow,
grateful for how you have held us from the very beginning,
confident that your love will never let us go,
bold in the promise that by seeking you we will be found.

Help us to reach out with our hearts
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

For those who help and serve, we pray
for those who are sick, and those who are grieving, we pray.
For ourselves and our loved ones
we pray for safety,
for health,
for wholeness.

For the sake of this world you have given into our care,
we pray you to inspire, guide and empower our service.
May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
May we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and give ourselves into the way of your justice, mercy and peace.

Help us, O God, that we might help each other. Amen

II.

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. (World Peace Prayer, adapted from the *Upanishads* by Satish Kumar)

III.

Loving God, we thank you for your presence among us, for your gift to us in Jesus Christ, for this church that we share in faithfulness to you and continuation of his ministry, and for the abundant blessing of our lives.

Living God, you show yourself to be the savior of all, and you know in full what we know only in part – how much we need a savior. Rescue us from egotism and complacency. Purify our motives and shake us from sentimentality. Help us to hear your will clearly and to live it boldly.

O God, there are too many whose lives are crippled by illness, ignorance, bitterness and grief, by exploitation and envy, by anger and fear, want and neglect. We know and love some of these. We trust that you know and love all... all of them... all of us. Take us, we pray, our time, talent and treasure, all that we have and all that we are, take and use each one of us and our gifts to fulfill the purposes of your creation, to renew your children and our beauty in your image. Especially we pray that your healing may touch all those whom we name before you in this quiet moment...

Help us to be your hands, O God, that all may come to serve your love and that our humanity may be fulfilled, as we have known it in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

IV.

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.

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. (inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, c. 1181 to October 3, 1226)

V.

Lord, would you help us to focus on you when so many things are drawing our attention. Lord, would you help us to understand that in the midst of crisis, you are the Lord of crisis. Lord, would you help us to realize that you are the One who walks among us in love. We trust in your unfailing love, and believe that you will care for us more than we yet know how to care for ourselves. Guide us, lead us, and encourage us in your way. (Steve Ybarrola, 2020)