

Readings 9.20.20 International day of Prayer and Witness for Peace

Readers: Phyllis, Tom

Prayers: John K

Opening prayer

God, teach us what it means to have faith in silence. When we face trials that are beyond our understanding, help us to find peace. Help me be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. You set all things in accordance to your time. Remind us to wait patiently, and find peace in your plan. **Amen**

Jonah 3:10-4:11 **Jonah's Anger at the LORD's Compassion** NIV

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, God relented and did not bring on them the destruction as had been threatened.

4 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to God, “Isn’t this what I said when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴ But God replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

¹⁰ But God said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?

God, be merciful to us and bless us;
look on us with kindness,
² so that the whole world may know your will;
so that all nations may know your salvation.
³ May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
 because you judge the peoples with justice
and guide every nation on earth.
⁵ May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
⁶ The land has produced its harvest;
God, our God, has blessed us.
⁷ God has blessed us;
may all people everywhere honor our God.

Colossians 3.12-18 NIV

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

Matthew 5.1-10 NIV

5 Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
 for they will be comforted.

- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Closing prayer

A Prayer for Peace in the World

Merciful God, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead humanity to commit injustice, nor selfishness make us bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we were created. **Amen**

Then:

Let us say together the Serenity prayer as originally written by Reinhold Neibuhr
God, give us courage to change what must be altered, serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and the insight to know the one from the other. **Amen**

Prayers found online at <https://www.womansday.com/life/g28366867/prayers-for-peace/?slide=3> (edited)