

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE  
21 SEPTEMBER 2020

# SHAPING PEACE TOGETHER



**UN75**  
2020 AND BEYOND

SHAPING  
OUR  
FUTURE  
TOGETHER

[un.org/peaceday](https://un.org/peaceday) | #peaceday #UN75

The International Day of Prayer for Peace was first adopted by resolution in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. In 2001, adopted a new resolution, 55/282, declaring 21 September of each year as the International Day of Peace. The intention of the resolution is to have the entire world observe a day of peace and nonviolence.

[www.internationaldayofpeace.org](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org)

#### MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH

The Peace Pole Project – Peace poles are four or six-sided obelisk shaped poles decorated with the message and prayer for peace. “May Peace Prevail On Earth” transcends all differences in race, religion and creed. It radiates to heal, purify and unify the hearts of all people.

The planting of peace poles is an expression of our love for all God’s children and wish for global peace and harmony. Through the active support of individuals and organizations the world over, peace poles are continuously being planted as an international symbol of peace. There are more than 250,000 Peace Poles in 180 countries all over the world dedicated as monuments to peace. They serve as constant reminders for us to visualize and pray for world peace.

Service adapted from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, World Council of Churches- Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010), World Peace Prayer Society, The Peace Pole Project, and the International Day for Peace Org, Peace Tax Fund, and the Community of the Cross of Nails.

Music and Songs & Prayers from Taizé’ and written by Jacques Berhier; published by GIA Publications Inc., and

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND PEACE

Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio

*And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.*

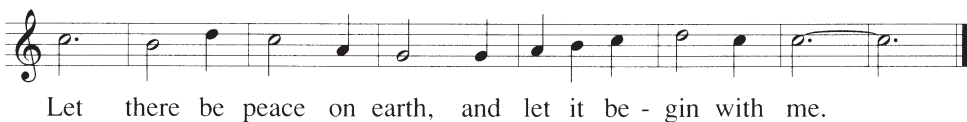
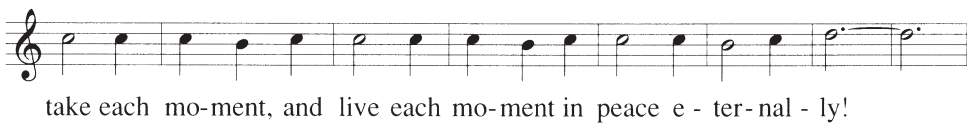
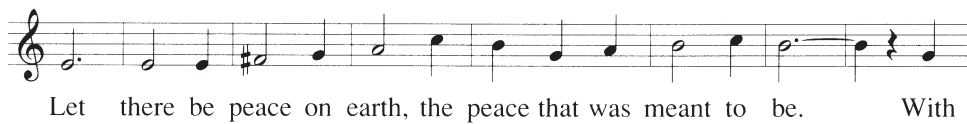
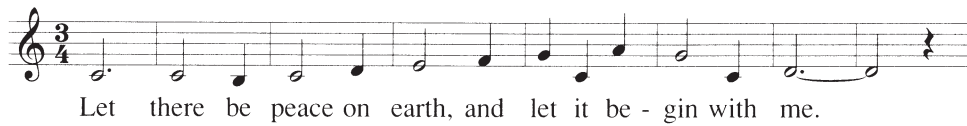
James 3:18

Welcome

Debbie Hunter, Episcopal Peace Fellowship

Opening Hymn: *Let There Be Peace On Earth*

Jill Jackson and Sy Miller



**Oh 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 around 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 all people, made in your image;  
Strengthen the will of all those  
Who fight for justice and peace,  
And give us that peace which the world cannot give.     **AMEN****

Litany for Peace (from International Prayers for Peace)

We pray to God to eradicate all the violence in the world:  
that understanding triumph over ignorance,  
that generosity triumph over indifference,  
that trust triumph over contempt, and  
that truth triumph over falsehood. *(from Zoroastrian Prayer for Peace)*

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.  
Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.  
Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Almighty God, the all-seeing Lord up on high  
who sees even the footprints of an antelope on a rock mass here on Earth.  
Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.  
Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace. *(from Native African Prayer for Peace)*

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.  
Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.  
Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Although the people living across the ocean  
surrounding us 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? *(from Shinto Prayer for Peace)*

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.  
Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.  
Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Come let us go up 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. *(from Jewish Prayer for Peace)*

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Hymn: We Are Called

David Haas

1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
2. Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that  
joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
great day when all will be one! God will reign,  
to be light for the king - dom, to  
to be hope for the hope - less so all  
and we'll walk with each oth - er as  
live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God!  
ha - tred and blind - ness will be no more!  
sis - ters and broth - ers u - nit - ed in love!  
We are called to act with jus-tice, we are called to  
love ten - der - ly, we are called to serve one an - oth - er;  
to walk hum - bly with God!

In the name of God, 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.  
Whether your enemy inclines towards peace, you incline towards peace,  
and trust God, for the Lord is the one that hears and knows all things. *(from Muslim Prayer for Peace)*

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS,  
 for they shall be known as the Children of God.  
 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.  
 And as you wish that others would do to you, so do to them. *(from Christian Prayer for Peace)*

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

God judges 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 attain God when we love one another,  
 and only that victory endures in which no one is defeated. *(from Sikh Prayer for Peace)*

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel  
 To all have amity, and to 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 be superior to non-violence and love. *(from Jainist Prayer for Peace)*

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Hymn: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Sebastian Temple



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where  
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where  
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where  
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where  
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, And  
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, And  
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in





where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.  
dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek So much to be con-



soled as to con-sole. To be un-der-stood as to un-der-



stand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.

Be fair in judgement, and guarded in speech.

Be a lamp to those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger.

Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light for 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. (from *Bahai' Prayer for Peace*)

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

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 good things that you provide for us on this Earth. (from *Native American Prayer for Peace*)

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

May all human beings everywhere suffering in body, mind or spirit quickly be 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 befriend one another. (from *Buddhist Prayer for Peace*)

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Oh God, lead us from violence to peace.

Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.

Oh God, lead us from death to immortality.  
 Oh Lord God almighty, 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 we be your hands to propagate peace all through the world.  
 May all things be a source of peace to us.  
 And may your peace itself, bestow peace on all. (from *Hindu Prayer for Peace*)

**Lord, you are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.**

**Lord, you are the cornerstone of peace.**

**Lord, strengthen us to create peace.**

Hymn: *World Peace Prayer*

Marty Haugen

Refrain



Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from des -  
 pair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from  
 hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our  
 hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

Verses



1. Still all the an - gry cries, still all the an - gry guns,  
 2. So man - y lone - ly hearts, so man - y bro - ken lives,  
 3. Let jus - tice ev - er roll, let mer - cy fill the earth,  
 still now your peo - ple die, earth's sons and daugh - ters.  
 long - ing for love to break in - to their dark - ness.  
 let us be - gin to grow in - to your peo - ple.  
 Let jus - tice roll, let mer - cy pour down,  
 Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,  
 We can be love, we can bring peace,  
 D.C.  
 come and teach us your way of com - pas - sion.  
 come and teach us your way of com - pas - sion.  
 we can still be your way of com - pas - sion.



## Prayer for Peace

*Prayer from the World Council of Churches - Decade to Overcome Violence*

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**

May Peace Prevail on Earth!

We pray for light in the people of North America

May enlightenment be in North America

May light be with us always.

**May peace prevail on Earth.**

We pray for light in the people of South America

May enlightenment be in South America

May light be with us always.

**May peace prevail on Earth.**

We pray for light in the people of Europe

May enlightenment be in Europe

May light be with us always.

**May peace prevail on Earth.**

We pray for light in the people of Africa

May enlightenment be in Africa

May light be with us always.

**May peace prevail on Earth.**

We pray for light in the people of Asia

May enlightenment be in Asia

May light be with us always.

**May peace prevail on Earth.**

We pray for light in the people of Australia

May enlightenment be in Australia

May light be with us all ways.

**May peace prevail on Earth.**

We pray for light in the people of Antarctica

May enlightenment be in Antarctica

May light be with us always.

**May peace prevail on Earth. AMEN**

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### WAKE ME UP LORD

Wake me up Lord, so that the evil of racism  
finds no home within me.  
Keep watch over my heart Lord,  
and remove from me any barriers to your grace,  
that may oppress and offend my brothers and sisters.  
Fill my spirit Lord, so that I may give  
services of justice and peace.  
Clear my mind Lord and use it for your glory.  
And finally, remind us Lord that you said,  
“blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.” **AMEN**

*Archbishop Dr. Antje Jackelen, Church of Sweden, World Council of Churches, #StayAtHome*

O loving God of life, God of compassion,  
  
as crisis is shaking our world, we turn to you with all our worries;  
for our loved ones, for our societies, for jobs and economies,  
and for how the the most vulnerable among us will be affected.  
Transform uncertainty and fear into love and care.  
give us courage, wisdom and consolation.

Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray;  
for the sick and those who are caring for them,  
for the researchers who are working to find  
medicine and vaccine,  
for those who must take difficult decisions  
that affect many,  
for international cooperation  
in the service of justice and peace,  
for spiritual leadership  
that is faithful to your will.

In your mercy,  
help us to hold on to what is right, true and beautiful.  
Through Jesus Christ, whom we have come to know as our Saviour and Healer.

A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and  
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

**Amen**

For more information about EPF/Episcopal Peace Fellowship here at Trinity Cathedral, please contact:

Bruce Freeman or Debbie Hunter  
EPF in the Diocese of Ohio  
c/o Trinity Commons  
2230 Euclid Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
[www.epfnational.org](http://www.epfnational.org)

## International Day of Peace 21 September (/en/observances/international-day-peace)



PHOTO: UN Photo/Marco Dormino

Members of the audience at a performance put on by a communal youth theatre project to promote peace and reconciliation in Gao, Mali (2014). UN Photo/Marco Dormino

### 2020 Theme: Shaping Peace Together

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere.

In March, UN Secretary-General António Guterres [called on all warring parties to lay down their weapons](https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/fury-virus-illustrates-folly-war) (<https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/fury-virus-illustrates-folly-war>) and focus on the battle against this unprecedented global pandemic. While the message is intended for armed parties, solidarity and cooperation across borders, sectors and generations are also needed to win this new fight against the worst public health crisis of our time.

For the United Nations, 2020 was already meant to be a year of listening and learning. To mark its 75th anniversary, the UN has invited millions of people worldwide to join UN75 (<https://un75.online/>), the largest and furthest-reaching global conversation on building the peaceful and prosperous future that we want.

As we struggle to defeat COVID-19, your voice is more important than ever. In these difficult times of physical distancing, this International Day of Peace will be dedicated to fostering dialogue and collecting ideas. The world will be invited to unite and share thoughts on how to weather this storm, heal our planet and change it for the better. Even though we may not be able to stand next to each other, we can still dream together.

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.

### Background