



THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe

Shared Faith Worship

Fifty years ago, leaders from various faiths joined together and wrote: *“In the turmoil of a world increasingly dominated by violence and characterised by bewilderment and confusion created by the apparent impotence of man to alleviate suffering caused by injustice except by more recourse to violence, it seems to us that an unprecedented spiritual initiative is urgently required. We therefore wish to commend the idea of the World Week of Prayer for Peace.”*

In the five decades since, the interfaith Week of Prayer for World Peace has taken place each October. Bringing together people from all faith communities and none, it has given a chance to learn and share.

The words they went on to write could have been written today, *“The situation is urgent. Violent conflict within nations and the ever-present threat of war between nations or races pose unprecedented dangers. The delicately interwoven structures of modern society and the contraction of the world by speedy communications have made every part of the globe immediately vulnerable to the effects of any outbreak of violent conflict. But these same factors also offer an unprecedented opportunity to create a quickened sense of brotherhood. Therein lies the overwhelming need for a Week of Prayer for World Peace.”*

In this 50th anniversary year, you are invited to use the prayers/thoughts in this resource. As George Macleod (founder of the Iona Community), wrote: *“Where people are praying for peace the cause of peace is strengthened by their very act of prayer, for they are themselves becoming immersed in the spirit of peace.”*

This resource is intended for individual and corporate use throughout the year as well as during the WPWP. (See the inside of the back cover for ordering more copies)

Our overall theme this year is ‘Praying with hope in a troubled world’. Our Founders described the world of 49 years ago as one ‘in turmoil and increasing violence’. Today that is still true, but we continue to ‘pray with hope’ for the peace that our world is so lacking. We pray with hope not just for a week but for the year.

Week of Prayer for World Peace runs from 13-20 October 2024

An interfaith gathering of prayer and peace

The annual Gathering will again this year be a virtual one

*We will be using Zoom and hope that people will be able to join us wherever they are. It will be held on **Sunday, 13th October 2024 at 3:30-4:30pm (London) (open from 3pm)** with music, prayers, storytelling and the presentation of the 2024 Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award.*

This is an opportunity to join together to pray and witness for peace.

Further details on the website or email: wpwp2021@yahoo.com for the zoom link.

Would you like to support the Week of Prayer for World Peace to help us continue our work?

Please make a donation:-

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Please email us at: keithsc_2000@yahoo.com to let us know if you have made a donation

DAY 1—MORE THAT UNITES US THAN DIVIDES US

Two peoples, one land, Three faiths, one root, One earth, one mother, One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny, One broken heart, One God. We pray to You: Grant us a vision of unity.

May we see the many in the one and the one in the many.

May you, Life of All the Worlds, Source of All Amazing Differences help us to see clearly.

Guide us gently and firmly toward each other, toward peace.

Rabbi Sheila Weinberg – Jewish

We lift our gazes not

To what stands between us,

But what stands before us.

We close the divide,

Because we know to put

Our future first, we must first

Put our differences aside

Before Us by Amanda Gorman

If you want to go quickly, go alone.

If you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb

Christian, Jew, Muslim, Shaman, Zoroastrian, stone, ground, mountain, river, each has a secret way of being with the mystery, unique and not to be judged.

Rumi – Muslim

During bad circumstances, which is the human inheritance, you must decide not to be reduced.

You have your humanity, and you must not allow anything to reduce that. We are obliged to know we are global citizens. Disasters remind us we are world citizens, whether we like it or not.

Author and Philosopher Maya Angelou

As long as there have been humans, we have searched for our place in the cosmos. Where are we? Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people ...

All of the rocks we stand on, the iron in our blood, the calcium in our teeth, the carbon in our genes were produced billions of years ago in the interior of a red giant star. We are made of star stuff...

For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love.

Carl Sagan—Humanist

As God is unlimited, He has many

Names: Allah-Buddha-Jehovah: all are ONE.

All you need is love.

George Harrison – Hindu

May I return always to my birthright of joy

May I know I am love,

May all beings know they are too

May we return to knowing oneness

To rising, diving, spiralling in unity

May the sun light our hearts

And may our dreams be true.

May we know simply:

We are love - and anything is possible.

**Extract from Prayer for Love by Nell Aurelia
Admiral – Contemporary Pagan**

By divine prompting look upon all existence as one and undifferentiated; the same light penetrates all existence.

Guru Nanak—Sikh

Our spirituality is a oneness and an interconnectedness with all that lives and breathes, even with all that does not live or breathe.

Mudrooroo—Australian Aboriginal

I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. ... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.

Malala Yousafzai

Music is language itself. It should not have any barriers of caste, creed, language or anything.

Music is one, only cultures are different. Music is the language of languages. It is the ultimate mother of all languages.

A R Rahman—Muslim

Unity is strength

Division is weakness

Swahili Proverb

I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John—Christian

DAY 2—FUTURE GENERATIONS

Help us to imagine that another world is possible
And guide our actions towards the peace
You envision, the peace you have already given us.
In the name of the One who came so that we might
have life,
And have it more abundantly, we pray. Amen.

Adapted: Rev Loey Powell, United Church of Christ

Let us decide today to be part of this great change.
Let each of us, with love and kindness, play our part
in creating a more peaceful world. Our world, our
home; let us make it more beautiful with peace and
friendship. Tomorrow belongs to those who strive
for peace today. Let us be one of them and build a
world where enduring peace prevails by 2030.

Suraya Mohammadi, Afghanistan

There can be no keener revelation of a society's
soul than the way in which it treats its children.

Nelson Mandela anti-apartheid revolutionary

Look closely at the present you are constructing: it
should look like the future you are dreaming.

Alice Walker—Author

Treat the earth well.

It was not given to you by your parents,
it was loaned to you by your children.

We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.

Indigenous American Ute Prayer

Children are not things to be molded, but are
people to be unfolded

Jess Lair—Author

Most times, Mother Earth's resources are used up
without the realisation that these thoughtless
actions might just be the root cause for the
hardships future generations may face. It is
everyone's responsibility to hand over a green,
clean, and healthy environment to them.

Tulsi Tanti—Hindu

It's never too late to be, what you might have been.

George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) - Humanist

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.

Shinto

Oh God,

You are peace.

From you comes peace,

To you returns peace.

Revive us with a salutation of peace,

And lead us to your abode of peace.

Prophet Muhammad – Muslim

I believe that to meet the challenge of our times,
human beings will have to develop a greater sense
of universal responsibility. We must all learn to
work not just for our own self, family, or nation, but
for the benefit of all humankind. Universal
responsibility is the key to human survival. It is the
best foundation for world peace.

His Holiness The Dalai Lama – Buddhist

We are the keepers of the land. It is our
responsibility to care for it and protect it for future
generations.

**Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison, Aboriginal
Elder**

But when adults speak up for the vulnerable and
the weak, working and demanding that safety and
respect prevail, God's little lambs are protected and
nourished. They know they are not abandoned;
they are loved. And the world becomes a little more
like heaven as a result.

Wess Stafford—Compassion UK

We all have a choice. We can create
transformational action that will safeguard the
living conditions for future generations. Or we can
continue with our business as usual and fail.

Greta Thunburg

The necessary thing for anyone to be happy and
contented as long as he lives is working for the ones
who will come after him rather than working for
himself ... One can reach the true delight and
happiness in the life only by working for the
existence, honour, and happiness of the future
generations.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk—Politician

DAY 3—PERSONAL GROWTH

O my Lord! Thou knowest that the people are encircled with pain and calamities and are environed with hardships and trouble. Every trial doth attack man and every dire adversity doth assail him like unto the assault of a serpent. There is no shelter and asylum for him except under the wing of Thy protection, preservation, guard and custody.

'Abdu'l-Bahá – Bahá'í

Dear God I often want to change others for my own comfort, but this only causes sorrow for another person as well as myself. When I look within my own heart I can see where I need to be more generous, compassionate or tolerant as You are. Inspire me to change myself and become a loving example for many others.

Brahma Kumaris Prayer

God of peace, come down among us, rain down your peace on the world.

Make a path for your goodness, fill e'vry heart with your peace.

Traditional Palestinian Song from 2024 World Day of Prayer

Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

St Francis of Assisi – Christian

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 Prayer for Peace – Daoist Tradition

Every day, may I willingly form affinity with others; may I practice loving kindness, compassion, joy and equanimity. Every day, may I treat people with tolerance and generosity. Oh, great Compassionate Buddha!

Buddhist

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, But to fight my greatest enemy: myself. Make me always ready to come to you

With clean hands and straight eyes, So when life fades, as the fading sunset, My spirit may come to you without shame.

Translated by Chief Yellow Lark in 1887 – Lakota Sioux

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.

Be fair in thy judgment, 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.

Baha'u'llah Prayer for Peace – Bahá'í

May peace be your virtue, May peace be your property, May peace be your prayer.

May you bring peace to all those you meet, you talk to, you live with. May you even bring peace to the person you hate, your enemy. May your friends enjoy your peaceful disposition and may your enemies enjoy your peaceful opposition.

May this world be based on one word: peace. As God has shredded Himself into all souls and piece by piece we get together into this beautiful world. May in our hearts we pray this day for world peace. Sat Nam

Sikh Tradition—blog of Sikh Dharma Intl.

Today, may I be open to others' ideas and beliefs, respectful of our differences, not threatened by them.

May I grow in understanding of my own motives, knowing that people often act out of their own fears. May I be a force for replacing fear with insight, helping us all to be patient and kind as we talk.

Strength, real strength, can always find compromise, working together, may we find a common ground, enable us to move forward with a shared purpose. May we see what is truly important and unites us, focusing on that, to banish road blocks of ego and fear, today, may I be open to others' ideas and beliefs.

Jewish

DAY 4—RIGHTS OF CREATION

Lord forgive us for the way we have damaged our world through thoughts, words and actions. We have heard that the world is only as good as the vibration of our thoughts. Negative and wasteful thoughts have led to pollution, famine and wars... May we together raise the vibration of thoughts, words and actions to heal the nature as well as the hearts of men and women. Let us fill ourselves with Your love and peace to give us the power to regain a pure and peaceful world.

Brahma Kumari

I dreamt there was a garden here
The grass grew bottle-green
And air fell tissue paper – blue
On flowers flush, on branch and brush
And softened all between

Anonymous

You are that which you wish to harm.

Mahavira—Jain

We gather in awe of the journey of life, from the simplest beginnings to the complex beings we are today. We give thanks for the wonder of evolution, for the countless generations that have shaped us, and for the intricate web of life that connects us all. May we honor this legacy with wisdom and compassion, cherishing our place in the vast story of the universe. Let us strive to understand and protect the natural world, celebrating the unity and diversity of life in all its forms. In gratitude and humility, we embrace the adventure of discovery and the beauty of our shared existence

Anonymous—Humanist

Let us fill our hearts with our own compassion—towards ourselves and towards all living beings... realise they are all brothers and sisters, all nourished from the same source of life.

Thich Nhat Hanh – Buddhist

The Soul of Mother Earth weeps again and laments: “Am I then to accept a powerless person with a weak voice as my protector? I need a truly powerful leader. When shall such a person arise, and gift me care and help? I implore you, Spirit of Wisdom, to grant them power and strength to lead me towards serenity and prosperity and I will recognise them as your foremost reflection”

Gathas – Zoroastrian

God, grant me the strength of eagles wings, the faith and courage to fly to new heights, and the wisdom to rely on his spirit to carry me there.

American First Nations Serenity Prayer

- people fade away, but the land remains.

Maori Proverb

Oh Great Goddess Mother of Mercy and Healing
Send the energy of Hygeia to nourish from Her Sacred Bowl

Send the energy of Brigid to heal with waters of Her Sacred Well

Send the energy of Demeter to restore life to withering cells

Send the energy of Quan Yin to bless the healing with peace

Send Your healing wisdom to the body to restore its sacred balance

Thank You Great Goddess Mother of All Life

Anonymous—Pagan

The land is my mother. Like a human mother, the land gives us protection, enjoyment and provides our needs economic, social and religious. We have a human relationship with the land: Mother, daughter, son. When the land is taken from us or destroyed, we feel hurt because we belong to the land and we are part of it.

Djinyini Gondarra—Indigenous Australian

Humanity follows the Earth, the Earth follows Heaven, Heaven follows the Dao, and the Dao follows what is natural.

Dao De Jing—Daoism

The world grows smaller and smaller, more and more interdependent...today more than ever before life must be characterised by a sense of Universal Responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life. **Dalai Lama—Buddhist**

We could never have loved the Earth so well if we had had no childhood in it. If it were not the Earth where the same flowers come up again every spring that we used to gather with our tiny fingers as we sat lipping to ourselves on the grass.

George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) - Humanist

DAY 5—FORGIVENESS AND COMPASSION

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 in God, for the Lord is one that hears and knows 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."

U.N. Day of Prayer for World Peace Muslim Prayer for Peace

Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel preached by all Enlightened Ones. The Lord has preached that being calm and composed is the Dharma. Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me. Unto all have I friendship, and unto none am I an enemy. 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, constant and unalterable way of spiritual life. A weapon, however powerful it may be, can always be superseded by a superior one; but no weapon can, however, be superior to non-violence and love.

Jain Tradition

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Isaac Penington – Quaker

"Samuel the Younger said: When your enemy falls, do not rejoice. When your enemy stumbles, do not be glad. Your glee will corrupt you, your ego will trick you into thinking that you are different from him.

You will excuse your evil, and your fate will be as hers. One who rejoices at another's hurt *is an enemy of all.*"

Wisdom of the Jewish Sages: A Modern Reading of Pirke Avot by Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Peace where: reason and truths herald triumphs, dignity and justice are sacred rights, love transcends all colors and separating walls, hope and freedom are an eternal flame. Lord, teach us

to make peace with all that surrounds us. May we reflect on the meaning and shape of our universe and nurture it with prayer, sacrifice and inspirations of great souls. May our labors and prayers converge to create a beautiful canopy of dignity, equality, justice and friendship for all living beings under the heavens to live and prosper in peace. May the entire creation move forward in solidarity, oneness of spirit and purpose, and together shape and inherit a legacy worthy of God and man, where peace is not a dream but our true destiny.

KP Singh from Sikhphilosophy.net – Sikh

The art of forgiveness is essential for mental health. Holding onto anger and resentment can cause more harm to you than to the people you resent.

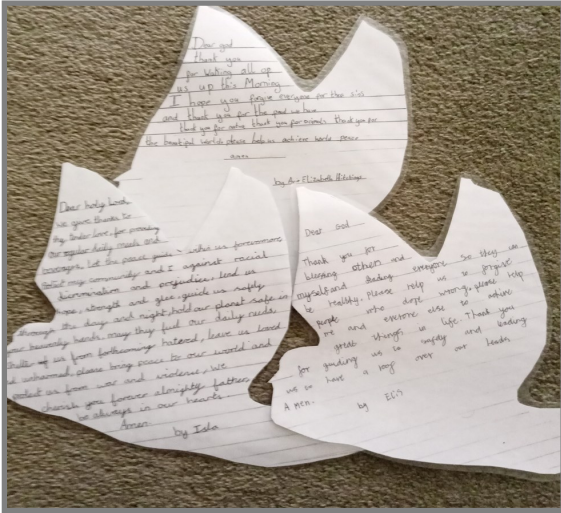
Albert Ellis—Humanist

Peace is a piece of me, inside is where it lives,
Small and cozy
Then I remember that I am not alone,
And my Peace gets bigger
My small piece joins up with other parts of me,
To make bigger pieces
My Peace becomes one big piece
Encompassing my whole being
I think Peace, I breathe Peace, I exhale Peace
Those close to me cannot help but breathe in my Peace
Then the piece of them where their Peace lives
Starts to get bigger
And the flow flows spreading Peace from
One living thing to another
And this is how we make Peace happen
By remembering the whole we get
The piece by piece magic of Peace
Benaifer Bhandari—Zoroastrian WPWP Committee Member

Gracious Goddess, gentle God,
On this day, I ask for forgiveness
For any wrongs I have committed
For any harm I have caused
I seek to make amends and heal the wounds
Guide me with your wisdom
So that I may walk in the light
And let go of any burdens of guilt and regret
Blessed be

Rede of the Wicca—Wiccan

ACTIVITY AND PRAYERS FOR THE YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG!



Prayer Jar Activity

Use a small empty jam jar, a tin can, or a cardboard tube. Cover the jar, can or tube with colourful paper or fabric (remember to cover the bottom of the tube). You could wind ribbon round it and stick on some sparkly jewels or use glitter glue. You could add a symbol such as those shown in the picture, cut out of card and coloured if you wish.

Use craft sticks for the prayer thoughts.

Write a thought on each one, such as 'Pray for a family member' or 'for those suffering in wars or famine' etc. Make as many as you can and put them in the jar, can or tube. Then take one each day, or several on a day of the week when you have time, and pray for the things mentioned.

Dear God,
Please forgive us for all the terrible things that humans have done to each other and the planet. There is so much destruction and pain caused by terrible wars that have gone on forever. We know that animals and the natural environment also suffer when there is war.
Please help us all to be better people and to treat everyone with respect and kindness.
Please encourage our world leaders to look for ways that avoid war and violence.
May all the faiths of the world come together in friendship and work for world peace so that we can all feel safe.
Please help us all to work together for a kinder world. Amen
Year 6 Peace Mala Team Catwg Primary School, Neath, South Wales UK

Changes
Long ago things were not like this
The world has changed.
Change come and go
Changes continue.
They bring joy, they bring sadness.
They give power they reduce power,
Where is the power that kept the community in peace?
Who will bring back the power

to maintain humanity?
What will tomorrow be like
because of change?
What will the world be like for future generations?
Miriam Chitongo, age 14, Zimbabwe

We pray that the Divine will give so much peace that every war ends.
With peace everyone will become calm and kind.
Peace leads you to right thinking and right decisions. Peace means to respect and appreciate Mother Nature. Peace makes us content and we won't need many things. Peace means happiness God's peace can help everyone. Let everyone find peace. Peace means unity.
Ray 15 years and Daniel 10 years – Brahma Kumaris

We pray that peace in the world will come when we know the One True Father.
Peace makes us calm and brings happiness.
Peaceful souls can give pure vibrations to the world. These are more powerful than words.
God helps us to bring peace in our families and makes us want to care and share and be kind.
Let us be content and spread peace along the world. Om shanti (I am a peaceful soul)
Myra 9 years, Prisha 7 years and Neil 5 years – Brahma Kumaris

DAY 6—THOSE WORKING FOR JUSTICE

I pray for peace but what is peace what is prayer
Peace is for the hungry to be fed feeding the
hungry is prayer in action
Peace is for the sick to experience care caring for
the other is prayer in action

For the oppressed peace is to be released working
for the freedom of the other is prayer in action.
Allowing the voiceless is to be heard is prayer in
action. Bringing the marginalised to the centre is
prayer in action. May my actions be prayers.

**Jehangir Sarosh, 16 October 2011 For Week of
Prayer for Peace – Zoroastrian**

When a wrong doer attempts to mislead me, who
else shall be my friend and companion? Who else
except my inner fire that blazes towards the Great
Spirit of Wisdom, and my thought that soars
towards the Great Spirit of Wisdom?

It is with recognition of the doctrine of
Righteousness, that we shall benefit from the
radiance of wisdom and strength.

Gathas – Zoroastrian

We are convinced that peace is not only possible,
it is one of the most urgent needs of our time.

We affirm that every single human being has the
right to peace and justice, and that at the same
time peace is a responsibility we must all assume.

World Peace Flame, Ambassador's Statement

The Peace of the World must be prayed for by the
faiths of the world.

Edward Carpenter, Co-Founder WPWP

Goddess Mother help me
to be patient and strong
to see what is truly important
to act without selfishness or fear
Goddess Mother help me
to trust your wisdom
to resist the coward's way
to walk in faith and compassion
to be truly human in spirit and heart

Abby Willowroot—Pagan

O Thou the Merciful One! O my Lord! Make Thy
protection my armor, Thy preservation my shield,
humbleness before the door of Thy oneness my
guard, and Thy custody and defense my fortress
and my abode. Preserve me from the suggestions
of self and desire, and guard me from every

sickness, trial, difficulty and ordeal.

Verily, Thou art the Protector, the Guardian, the
Preserver, the Sufficer, and verily, Thou art the
Merciful of the Most Merciful.

'Abdu'l-Bahá – Bahá'í

Just as the sun does not wait for prayers and
incantations to persuade it to rise, but shines
anyway and is universally loved, so you should not
wait for applause and praise in order to do good;
but be a voluntary benefactor and you will be
beloved like the sun.

Epictetus, 1st Century CE

The test of a democracy is not the magnificence
of buildings or the speed of automobiles or the
efficiency of air transportation, but rather the care
given to the welfare of all the people.

Helen Keller—Swedenborgian

I submit that an individual who breaks a law that
conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly
accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to
arouse the conscience of the community over its
injustice, has in reality the highest respect for the
law.

Martin Luther King Jr.

When the world pushes you in the knees, you're
in the perfect position to pray

Rumi—Muslim

We envision a world where all people — from the
U.S. to Palestine — live in freedom, justice,
equality, and dignity.

Jewish Voice for Peace

I get concerned when I see people who are drawn
to love and aesthetics sometimes not speak out
much on justice issues, and folks who are drawn
to justice downplay the love tradition, poetic
traditions, the whole ishan tradition as “fluff” that
they cannot afford. Even beyond linking them
together, I am reminded of how love is the Divine
current, and when it moves outward we recognize
it as justice, and when it moves inward we see it
as tenderness. If you love the folk, how can you
bear to be silent when you see folks suffering?

Omid Safi—Sufi

Truth alone wins

Vedas—Hindu

DAY 7—DISPLACED PEOPLE

Life-giving,
love-bringing,
home-making God,
may the shelter of your presence
bring hope and healing
to all those who have been
uprooted and stranded in unfamiliar lands,
because of the brokenness of this world.
Amen

Bible Reading Fellowship - Christian

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand.
We need to see them for who they really are -
Chancers and scroungers,
Layabouts and loungers,
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves.
They are not welcome here.
We should make them
Go back to where they came from.
They cannot share food,
Share our homes,
Share our countries.
Instead let us build a wall to keep them out.
It is not okay to say these people are just like us.
A place should only belong to those who are born
there.

Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way.
(now read from bottom to top)

REFUGEES by Brian Bilston

An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest
and most fatal ailment of all Republics.

Plutarch—Platonist

As we recall the dreadful use and testing of
nuclear weapons, we recognize that many people
continue to suffer from the effects of the
radiation. Cancers and other illnesses develop,
sometimes years later. At the time there were
miscarriages and mal-formed babies. Even now
there will be sad effects.

Let us pray for all who are affected, and for the
nuclear powers to revert to better ways to obtain
peace in the world. Amen

We choose struggle rather than indifference,
To be friends of the earth and one another, rather
than enemies,
We choose to be citizens rather than subjects,
We choose to be peacemakers rather than
peacekeepers.
We choose a peaceful future free from war, and
will settle for nothing less.

A Prayer for Survivors

Ready to hold ourselves and each other
Through holding each other
We are held.
With our unity, we light the world with love
With our love we understand
With our understanding we take responsibility
With our responsibility we are brave
Brave to dream of the world we want
Brave to speak our dreams
With our bravery comes action
The bold and the everyday actions that change
our world
And bring hope to our souls
Hope we can breathe in deeply
Hope to wake us from our slumbers
To fill every corner of our awareness
With the knowing
All is possible

Empowered People by Looby Macnamara – contemporary Pagan

Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be
understood.

Attributed to Marie Curie

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice
everywhere.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Refugees didn't just escape a place. They had to
escape a thousand memories until they'd put
enough time and distance between them and
their misery to wake to a better day.

Nadia Hashimi

In my observations, humanists, when they are
attacked, are attacked far more viciously and
brutally than in other cases.

Ahmed Shaheed, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief

DAY 8—KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

Dear God as we pass through turbulent and stressful times, we turn to You for refuge and strength, knowing that You are the Almighty Protector of everyone. Let us keep faith in Your mercy to take us out of the darkness into the light of a peaceful new world. Let us support and comfort our neighbours (whoever they are) in sickness and suffering, offering hope and renewal.

Brahma Kumaris Prayer

For love, which heals wounds,
we will stand.

For generosity, which opens space for hope,
we will stand.

For nurturing, which builds a culture of peace,
we will stand.

A Pledge for Transformation

Oh God, You Are Peace Oh God, You are peace.
From You comes peace, to You returns peace.
Revive us with a salutation of peace, and lead us
to Your abode of peace.

Prophet Muhammad – Muslim

Wherever voices are raised
In praise or in protest,
Wherever there are shouts of anger
Or cries of pain,
Help us to hear the faint rumblings of peace
And the whispered words of healing
Which seek to transform and renew.
Help us to know your faithful presence
In this world of unravelling.

Wherever fear grips
And will not let go,
Whenever joy abandons us
And faith seems futile,
Help us to glimpse every small act of love
That it might shape our lives
And nurture hope.

(Abbreviated from a prayer by Rev Liam Dacre-Davis – Christian)

I dream of a world...

...where all human beings respect one another
and the natural environment, and seek happiness
in experiences, relationships and sharing.

...where in both easy times and hard times people
turn to each other, not against each other.

...where everyone has so much spirit that they

choose calm over conflict.

...where people have stopped being what they
think they should be and find joy love and
freedom in being who they really are.

...where everyone lives together in peace,
abundance and self-awareness.

...where we no longer look towards material
possessions for happiness and find it within
ourselves and each other.

...where the love of our beautiful planet is at the
heart of what we do and the decisions we make.

Earth pathways co-operative/ Marion McCartney: dreamthefuture.org.uk- Pagan

At this great moment of choice when men and
women, righteous or deceitful, wise or unwise,
search within themselves, to contemplate and put
into words what they know, you, Serenity,
enlighten us with your energy so that we can
overcome our doubt and choose our path and
doctring

The Gathas – Zoroastrian

There is a spirit which I feel, that delights to do no
evil, nor to avenge any wrong, but delights to
endure all things in hope to enjoy its own in the
end. Its hope is to outlive all wrath and
contention, and to weary out all exaltation and
cruelty, or whatever is of a nature contrary to
itself. It sees to the end of all temptations. As it
bears no evil in itself, so it conceives none in
thought to any other: if it be betrayed, it bears it;
for its ground and spring are the mercies and
forgiveness of God. Its crown is meekness, its life
is everlasting love unfeigned, and takes its
kingdom with entreaty, and not with contention,
and keeps it by lowliness of mind. In God alone it
can rejoice, though none else regard it, or can
own its life.

James Naylor – Quaker

Allow one's spirit to exercise its potential
To guide us in our work as well as in our pursuit of
our ancestral traditions

Take hold and preserve it

Ensure it is never lost

Hold fast.

Secure it.

Draw together! Affirm!

Maori



In collaboration with the Iona Community and Alignment: Interfaith Contemplative Practices, we are delighted to provide a digital resource for individuals and faith communities worldwide.

Leaders from eight different religious/spiritual traditions offer a video for every day of the week. They offer songs, messages, and images choosing one tradition to represent each day of the week of prayer. We uplift these particular prayers in honour of all who are seeking and in need of prayers for peace, from all faiths or none.

This QR code will lead you to the website where the prayers will open, one each day of the week. Once a prayer opens, it will remain open to be revisited through the year. They can also be found by visiting **www.interfaithalignment.org/wpwp**



Contact **www.interfaithalignment.org/contact** for an embed code to put the digital prayers directly on your community's website.

- Our intention is to encourage pursuing peace for all humanity by embracing the prayers of diverse traditions. By nurturing understanding, empathy, and harmony among faith communities, we aim to raise awareness of the practices and teachings of different belief systems.
- It is our hope is to demonstrate inclusivity in the pursuit of world peace. Fostering genuine and lasting global harmony.
- Coming together, bound by the common thread of compassion. Enriching our own practices and contribute to a more connected and peaceful world.
- May this special 50th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for World Peace inspire hope in our hearts and join in harmony as we envision a world blessed with the gifts of peace, love, and understanding.

Week of Prayer For World Peace Leaflet 2024/2025

Again, this year the Committee is distributing the Prayer Resource free.

If you would like more copies to share, please either email wpwp2021@yahoo.com or write to

WPWP c/o 112 Whittlesey Rd. March, PE15 0AH with your:

Name—Address—Phone number—Number of copies you require

OR go the website **weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk** and order!

To donate and support the continuation of Week of Prayer for World peace—keithsc_2000@yahoo.com

Week of Prayer for World Peace runs from 13-20 October 2024 and the whole year round!

Wilson/Hinkes Annual Peace Award—Nominations for 2025

In memory of former Chairs of WPWP, Revd. Gordon Wilson and Revd. Sidney Hinkes, we recognise significant contributions by individuals/projects in furthering peace, justice and reconciliation. Focussing on grassroots initiatives, it enables untold stories to a wider audience. The Award inspires others to see what ordinary people can do to bring reconciliation. It is open to all, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity or faith. For more info—wpwp2021@yahoo.com