

**PEACE PRAYER**  
on the  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

21 September 2010



Prepared by International Presentation Association

## Making Peace

A voice from the dark called out,  
'The poets must give us  
imagination of peace, to oust the intense, familiar  
imagination of disaster. Peace, not only  
the absence of war.'

But peace, like a poem,  
is not there ahead of itself,  
can't be imagined before it is made,  
can't be known except  
in the words of its making,  
grammar of justice,  
syntax of mutual aid.

A feeling towards it,  
dimly sensing a rhythm, is all we have  
until we begin to utter its metaphors,  
learning them as we speak.

A line of peace might appear  
if we restructured the sentence our lives are making,  
revoked its reaffirmation of profit and power,  
questioned our needs, allowed  
long pauses...

A cadence of peace might balance its weight  
on that different fulcrum; peace, a presence,  
an energy field more intense than war,  
might pulse then,  
stanza by stanza into the world,  
each act of living  
one of its words, each word  
a vibration of light -- facets  
of the forming crystal.

**Denise Levertov**



with God as our Father, fam'ly all are we,  
let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,  
with every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,  
to take each moment and live each moment in peace  
eternally;  
let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.



## Concluding Prayer (The Prayer of St Francis)

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  
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.  
It is in dying, that we are born to eternal life.



Give thanks for strong yet tender hands, held on in trust and blessing,  
Where words fall short, let hands speak out, the heights of love  
expressing.

Put God into each other's hands, God is love's deepest measure;  
In love make Peace, give Peace a chance and share it like a treasure.

(Text: *Fred Kann*; Tune: *St Columba*; Arrangement: *Jan Holstein*)

## Prayer

With people of every nation, we ask God to help us see each other not as  
enemies or outsiders, but as sisters and brothers.

**God of Peace, hear our prayer**

We pray for the victims of war, for the atomic bomb survivors and for all  
those who continue to become the tragic victims of war. May the gentle  
hand of God touch them with healing power.

**God of Peace, hear our prayer**

We pray for those in positions of leadership in government, in the world  
economies and in the military. Help them bring an end to the suffering  
caused by war and violence.

**God of Peace, hear our prayer**

We pray for a spirit of repentance and reconciliation, so that we do not  
build walls but bridges.

**God of Peace, hear our prayer**

We know that you bless the peacemakers and sustain them. Help us to  
witness to the call for non violence and reconciliation in our relationships,  
in our communities and in the world.

**God of Peace, hear our prayer**

## Let There be Peace on Earth

(this is to be sung if possible or any other hymn)

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me,  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be;

Peace is the prayer we pray for this new world emerging,  
for the hastening the day of consciousness converging.  
Peace flowing from within will alter the way we live,  
repairing what has been whenever we forgive.

Build no restraining wall. Resist the violent voices.  
Extend a hand to all. Make conscientious choices.  
Those forces that divide, hostility and despair,  
will never override the good that's everywhere.

When all the world is one and all the wars are ended,  
new empathies begun,  
Old enemies befriended,  
when accusations cease, when turbulent thoughts are stilled,  
perennial dreams of peace will finally be fulfilled.

Words of Miriam Therese Winter

*(Let us observe one minute silence to join with the millions of people  
around the world praying for peace)*

## Litany of Reconciliation

- ✚ All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The hatred  
which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class;  
**God, forgive**
- ✚ The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not  
their own; **God forgive**
- ✚ The greed which exploits the labors of persons and lays waste the  
Earth, **God, forgive**
- ✚ Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others; **God, forgive**
- ✚ Our indifference to the plight of the homeless and the refugee;  
**God, forgive**



- ✚ Our lust which dishonors the bodies of men, women, and children; **God, forgive**
- ✚ The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God; **God, forgive**
- ✚ Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God forgave you; **Thank you God**



### Prayers for Peace from around the world

**Native American Prayer for Peace** 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 of mind.

**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 rock mass here on Earth. You are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call. You are the cornerstone of peace. You provide for us on this Earth.

**Hindu Prayer for Peace** May the 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. Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.

**Jewish Prayer 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 plowshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. Nations shall not lift up sword against nation-neither shall they learn war any more.

**Muslim Prayer for Peace** In the name of Allah, 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; Most gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility, and when we address them, we say “peace.”

**Buddhist Prayer for Peace** May all beings everywhere plagued with sufferings of body and mind be quickly 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 think of befriending one another. May those who find themselves in trackless fearful wilderness - the children, the aged, the unprotected - be guarded by beneficial celestials, and may they swiftly attain Buddhahood.

**Christian Prayer for Peace** Let the peace of Christ reign in our hearts; as members of one body, we have been called to that peace. May we be found rich in the harvest of justice that Christ Jesus has ripened in us.

**Universal Prayer for Peace** 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 Hearts, our World, our Universe.

### Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands

(this is to be sung if possible or any other hymn)



Put Peace into each other’s hand and like a treasure hold it; Protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put Peace into each other’s hands with loving expectation; Be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God’s creation.

Put Peace into each other’s hand; like bread we break for sharing; Look people warmly in the eye; our life is meant for caring.