



Let There Be Peace

SUGGESTED SETTING: Light one main candle and have 7 small votive candles to be lit later in the service.

“Men and women who have a religious spirit can in fact be the learners of a new awareness of the whole of humanity in regard to the common responsibility for peace.”

John Paul II, October 27th, 1986

St. Mary of the Angels, Assisi

LEADER: On October 27th, 1986, for the first time in history, the leaders of the world assembled in one place, just to be together, to reflect, to pray, and to fast together for peace. The place was Assisi at the Church of Saint Mary of the Angels. This gathering is considered one of the two most important ecclesial events of the twentieth century. The second was the Second Vatican Council.

How we need this in today's world! Wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, the perpetual violence and turmoil in the Middle East, worldwide terrorism, domestic violence, mass shootings, and random violent acts committed by individuals for unknowable reasons cause many Christians to despair.

Can we make a difference?

SONG: Peace Is Flowing Like a River (You Tube)

Peace is flowing like a river
Flowing out of you and me
Love is flowing like a river

Setting all the captives free.

Joy is flowing like a river.....

Love is flowing like a river.....

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Pause for some time to touch the peace of God within each of us.

READER 1 – Matthew 5: 9, 14-16

Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them His children.

You are the light of the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.

REFLECT: What can I do to be the light of peace to those around me?

READER 2 – Philippians 4: 6-9

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

In conclusion, my brothers, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable. Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and from my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you.

REFLECT: What do the words “Lord make me an instrument of peace” mean to you?

PRAYERS FOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS: Light a candle as each prayer is read

READER 1 – Buddhist

May the frightened cease to be afraid
And those bound be free:
May the powerless find power
And may people think of befriending one another.

READER 2 – Hindu

May God protect us.
Common be our resolution.
Alike be our feeling towards our fellow beings.
United be our hearts.
Perfect be our unity for peace.

READER 3 – Muslim

Praise be to God, Lord of the Universe.
The Mercy-Giving, the Merciful!
You do we worship and You do we call for help.
Guide us along the straight road.

READER 4 – African

Almighty God,
You are the One who does not hesitate to respond to our call:
You are the Cornerstone of Peace.
We pray for world peace.
Let peace reign in the Vatican.
Grant peace to Africa.
Grant peace to individuals, to homes and families,
And extend the same to all corners of the world.

READER 5 – Jewish

O Lord in heaven,
Give peace to the earth.
Give well-being to the world.
Establish tranquility in our dwellings.
And let us say, “Amen.”

READER 6 – American Indian

O Great Spirit,
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 in mind.
Let us learn to share all the good things that you provide for us on this earth.

ALL CHRISTIANS – Recite the Our Father together as a group!

TIME OF SHARING: How can we as individuals bring peace into our own lives, our neighborhoods and our community.....and ultimately help to make our world a more peaceful world?

LEADER :

LET US PRAY: Good and gracious God, let your peace rest so gently in our hearts and minds that we may have the strength to work for peace in our world, today, tomorrow and forever. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen

PRAYERS OF PETITION:

Response: God of peace, hear our prayer.

That each of us may know your peace in our hearts and have the courage and strength to share the gift of your peace with those around us. **(Response)**

That we commit ourselves to making peace a part of our everyday life, especially through prayer and action, as women and men of faith committed to Gospel living and as followers of Saint Francis. **(Response)**

That we are instrumental in building peace in our families, in our communities, in our churches, in our country, among all religions, cultural and personal differences we encounter. **(Response)**

That we seek to overcome injustice with justice, hate with love, resentment with forgiveness, violence with meekness, division with unity. **(Response)**

That we may come to know the true meaning of being an “Instrument of Peace” in today’s world. **(Response)**

Let us pray: ALL

Oh God, Help and guide us to become instruments of your peace in an unrestful world. Let the design of your great love enlighten and heal relationships in our world so torn by misunderstanding, violence and war. Give peace to your people, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus, your son and our brother. Amen.

SONG: Let There Be Peace on Earth (You Tube)

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that we meant to be.

With God as our FatherAlternate changes in black
Brothers all are we, (Family all are we)
Let me walk **with my brother** (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.