



Week of Prayer
For World Peace
2021 ~ 2022

THE INTERNATIONAL 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

Shared Faith Worship

“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.” wrote George Macleod, founder of the Iona Community. He was one of a number of faith leaders who in 1974 signed ‘A Call to Prayer for World Peace’. They wrote ‘Believing that God is calling us to pray with new purpose and deeper understanding for peace and justice among all people, we invite our fellow believers of all faiths to join in a WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE’.

The call went on to say “Patience will need to be an essential feature of this united act of prayer so that we may all not only learn from the past errors but also be open to fresh insights which the unprecedented modern situation demands”. Sadly, these words are still pertinent today, in the third decade of the 21st century.

A Prayer and Study leaflet for individual and corporate use during the Week has remained a key feature of WPWP. It is presented here for use during the Week and throughout the year.

We are convinced that there is only one humanity praying to one supreme Creator, with whatever different opinions we may have on what that may be. We recognise that interfaith partnership does not in itself imply agreement. WPWP invites all people to join in praying for peace on our shared earth under one sky.

The things we agree on are many and precious. What we disagree on is precious too. We stand alongside all who pray for peace with us as partners and friends.

The Week of Prayer for World Peace 2021 is 10th -17th October.

Please let us know how you observe the Week of Prayer for World Peace via weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

An interfaith gathering of prayer and peace

The annual gathering will again this year be a ‘virtual’ one.

*It will be held on **Sunday, 10th October 2021 at 3:30-4:30 (BST).***

We will be using Zoom and hope that people will be able to join us wherever they are.

With music, prayers, storytelling and young people’s videos it will be a time to join together for peace.

If you are interested to know more, please contact wpwp21@yahoo.com

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

If so, please make a donation:- A/C Name: The Week of Prayer for World Peace Bank: Lloyds, Bexleyheath Sort Code: 30-90-76 Account Number: 00049837 IBAN: GB62 LOYD 3090 7600 0498 37 Please email us at: keithsc_2000@yahoo.com to let us know.

DAY 1



UNITING RATHER THAN DIVIDING PEOPLE

Help us to work with all people towards a peaceful world.

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations. Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.

Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows. Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken. Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly. So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin colour. Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness. So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbours.

Rabbi Harold Kushner

We must be united. We must love each other. We must ever praise each other. We

must bestow commendation upon all people, thus removing the discord and hatred which have caused alienation amongst men. Otherwise, the conditions of the past will continue, praising ourselves and condemning others...

Abdu'l-Bahá

Give us Lord God, a vision of our world as your love would make it; a world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor; a world where the benefits of civilised life are shared and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races, nations and cultures live in mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice and justice is guided by love; and give us the inspiration and courage to build it.

Trevor Williams, Corrymeela Community

DAY 2



EDUCATION FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

Let us pray for all involved in learning and teaching for peace

Teach me the way of life,
Not a life that is mean and narrow
But a life that is rich and full and free,
A finding of strength, a sharing of wealth,
A reaching for joy at its fullest
And generous, generous always.
Teach me the way of peace.

Sue Gilmurray

Oh Great Spirit, I pray for your blessing.
I pray that you bring peace to all
my brothers and sisters of this world....
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

Anonymous Native American

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is
in the minds of men that the defences of
peace must be constructed.

UNESCO Constitution

Affirm divine calmness and peace, and send
out only thoughts of love and goodwill if
you want to live in peace and harmony.
Never get angry, for anger poisons your
system.

Paramahansa Yogananda



DAY 3

ONGOING PANDEMIC SITUATION

We pray for all those still affected and those supporting them in many ways

Millions of people have asked themselves and each other where they might find God in the (Covid-19) crisis. What comes to mind is the overflow.... found in the suffering that the crisis has revealed and the creative ways in which people have responded. I see an overflow of mercy spilling out in our midst and in some a new courage and compassion. This fills me with hope that we might come out of this crisis better. But we have to see clearly, choose well and act right.

"Let us Dream" by Pope Francis

We grieve for those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic; for those separated from family and friends for months at a time, for livelihoods adversely

affected, and for those whose mental and physical health has suffered. Be alongside them in their sorrow, and as the world returns to some sort of normality may they not be forgotten. We give thanks for the heroic efforts of those who have worked tirelessly in research and in the medical profession to bring healing and comfort to those affected by the coronavirus, and for those who have supported the vulnerable and lonely.

Make us more compassionate and loving people to care for each other as you would have us do. Amen

Susan Gale – Methodist Peace Fellowship



DAY 4

A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

We pray for the wisdom of leaders to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction

... the greatest need in the world today is international peace. The time is ripe. It is time for the abolition of warfare, the unification of nations and governments. It is the time for love. It is time for cementing together the East and the West.

Abdu'l-Bahá

On 1 July 1946, the first atomic test was carried out in the Pacific and many more took place with a legacy of radiation and population displacement. *On this 75th anniversary year of this test, we pray:* For all in the Pacific who, like so many people in the

world, are victims of nuclear weapon activities.

For Marshall Islanders, inhabitants of a region who were used, without regard for their vulnerability, for the testing of nuclear weapons.

For everyone in the Marshall Islands, suffering still today from radioactive fallout and pollution from leaking nuclear waste.

For all victims of indifference who, like the Marshall Islanders, are set aside.

Michael Pullen, Christian CND



DAY 5

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF CONFLICT

Let us pray guidance to use the world's resources wisely for peaceful ends

Earth is a blessing; she supports life and is the basis of all our economies.
She conveys beauty and evokes recognition of something greater than ourselves.
She is our temple, our mosque, our sanctuary, our cathedral and our home.
Let us together be committed to help sustain Earth as our collective home.

Anon

"In a few decades the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace."

Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Laureate

Promoting and living by principles of universal peace can lead to less violent

conflicts and wars.

This will enable vast resources, used for warfare, to be directed to creating a healthy and sustainable society.

Brahma Kumaris

Bless you with God's grace and may the power of prayer bring peace to the Earth.
This is the time when sincerely and honestly we all should pray to God so that there may be peace on Earth again.

Sikh

The Soul of Mother Earth cries to you: "Why did you create me? Who fashioned me this way? Anger, cruelty and aggression oppress me. And no one but you has the power to shield me and lead me to real happiness"

Zoroastrian



DAY 6

EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

We pray for children and young people caught up in adult wars

We pray for children whose childhood has been interrupted,
For young eyes which have seen far too much,
Young hands trained to hold weapons,
Young feet forced to march,
Young minds seared by commands
No child should encounter.

We pray for children used in conflicts to be set free,
For your healing to restore their bodies and minds
And the bodies and minds of those they have harmed,
For their reconciliation within families and

communities
And an end to cycles of grief and trauma.
And we pray, O Lord, for a just and peaceful resolution of the conflicts
That rend our world and that put children and adults in harm's way.

Christian Concern for One World

"Let us remember them"

The highest numbers of violations were the recruitment and use of 8,521 children as soldiers, followed by the killing (2,674) and maiming (5,748) of 8,422 children and 4,156 incidents of denial of humanitarian access. UN Report on children and armed conflict 2020.

UNICEF



DAY 7 SANCTUARY

Let us remember those in need of refuge and safety

All-loving, ever-present God,
We pray for our neighbours –
for the people we know and love,
and for the people we have never met.
We pray for our neighbours –
for the people across the street,
and for the people on the other side of the
world.
We pray for our neighbours –
for the people who look and sound like us,
and for the people who couldn't be more
different.
We pray for our neighbours –
for everyone who is struggling,
for everyone who is being marginalised and
oppressed.

Adapted from Tearfund

Be a haven for the distressed,
an upholder and defender for the victim of

oppression,
a home for the stranger,
a balm to the sufferer,
a tower to the fugitive
Abdu'l-Bahá

May I be able to look upon all beings with
the eye of friend
May we look upon one another with the eye
of a friend
The Vedas

May whoever walks through our open doors,
seeking solace and refuge, find a safe haven
offering friendship, peace and hope.
May all beings be happy and at their ease
Free from pain, fear, distress or enmity;
Untroubled, well, unharmed,
In Peace
Buddhist Blessing



DAY 8 PEACE BUILDERS

We pray for those working to promote peace in local communities. Here are some recipients of the Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award who as groups and individuals are peacebuilders – Full stories are available on www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

Rev. Dr. Inderjit Bhogal, a Methodist minister, has been active in peace building for decades in many places including Corymeela, Northern Ireland. He was recognised for his pioneering work in initiating the City of Sanctuary movement. With support from over one hundred local organisations and the Local Council, he led Sheffield to become the UK's first City of Sanctuary.

Wycombe Refugee Partnership, a group of concerned Christians, Muslims and others,

which seeks to support families who have come to the UK as asylum seekers, granted refugee status and then given family reunification visas.

Theo Mbazumutima had to flee his country, Burundi as a young man because his ethnic group was being targeted. While living in exile he and a group of Burundian refugees founded Rema Burundi. Their activities focus on the long-term reintegration of forced migrants and returning refugees as well as refugees from other countries in Burundi.

ORDER FORM - Week of Prayer For World Peace Leaflet 2021/2022

NAME _____ ORGANISATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please send me:

_____ Leaflets (1 leaflet £2, 10 leaflets £10, 50 leaflets £40, 100 leaflets £60, 250 leaflets £100, 500 leaflets £150. Free postage and packing

_____ Young People's Activity leaflet (free)

Donation to the work of WPWP £ _____

TOTAL COST £ _____ (please enclose payment payable to Week of Prayer for World Peace)

Please return to WPWP, 112 Whittlesey Rd, March, PE15 0AH

Wilson/Hinkes Annual Peace Award

This Award was established by the Week of Prayer for World Peace (WPWP) to recognise significant contributions by individuals, organisations or projects in furthering peace, justice and reconciliation. The Award focuses on grassroots initiatives. It enables otherwise often untold stories to be told and honoured and seeks to inspire others. It is open to all, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity or faith.

Named in honour of Revd. Gordon Wilson and Revd. Sidney Hinkes, both former Chairs of the WPWP, the Award is made annually. The Award, valued at £500, is this year sponsored by the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and will be presented at our Annual Event.

Nominations in the form of a letter describing the nominee's contribution to peace and justice issues should be sent to by end August to Sue Gale billandsuegale@blueyonder.co.uk and Sue Claydon chair@anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk

We invite you to tell us how you have used this leaflet. Thank you!

Supporting Organisations Include:

Al Khoei Foundation
Anglican Pacifist Fellowship
Animal Interfaith Alliance
Brahma Kumaris,
Buddhist Society
Catholic Diocese of Westminster Interfaith Committee
Christian CND
Community of Christ
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Gandhi Foundation
Hindu Council UK
London Inter Faith Centre,
Methodist Peace Fellowship

Nipponzan Myohoji
Northern Friends Peace Board,
One World Week
Pax Christi
Quaker Peace and Social Witness
Rissho Kosei-kai
Rumi Mosque
Schumacher Society
Sikh Divine Fellowship
Uniting For Peace
World Peace Flame Foundation
World Peace Prayer Society
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Children and young people are aware of the need of the world for peace. They can join in praying for peace and learn about peacebuilding. The recognised International Prayer for Peace (below) has had simple actions added which will help children to use and remember it.

ACTIVITY: Lead me ...

Lead me ...

- from death to life - *hands crossed over body and then hands raised above the head*
- from falsehood to truth - *one hand close to the mouth, suggesting a malicious whisper, and then both hands with thumbs up next to the mouth suggesting the truth*
- from despair to hope - *one hand on the forehead in despair and then the same hand shading the eyes, looking out to the future in hope*
- from fear to trust - *two hands by the mouth expressing terror and then both hands open in front of the body expressing trust*
- from hate to love - *one hand raised as a fist and then two hands over the heart*
- from war to peace - *one hand shaped like a gun and then two hands linked by the thumbs, palms inward, creating a dove of peace*
- Let peace fill...
- our heart - *hands still as the dove of peace near to the heart*
- our world - *hands as the dove of peace making a small circle from the body*
- our universe - *hands making a bigger circle from the body*

ACTIVITY: 'My wish for Peace'

Write a story where you are granted one wish – so long as it contributes to the peace of the world. What is the most powerful thing you could wish for?

Share this story with your family, friends, class and we would like to read it, too.
Send to wpwp21@yahoo.com

WPWP is always looking for prayers on peace topics from those of faith communities and those of none. If you have prayers/poems/quotations, please do contact us.
Email contributions to: wpwp21@yahoo.com