



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

The Week of Prayer for World Peace was started as a Christian initiative in 1974. It soon became an interfaith activity, and now welcomes everyone, of all faith traditions or none. Our first Chair, the late Dr Edward Carpenter, former Dean of Westminster Abbey, established the guiding principle of the Week in the words “The peace of the world must be prayed for by the faiths of the world”, and this continues to be the basis of our work today.

For those inspired with the idea of praying with people of all beliefs, three thoughts may be helpful. First, the different words we recite are said by neighbours in the same town and the same street every week, and by sharing together we simply bring under one roof what happens anyway under the same sky. Secondly, we are convinced that there is only one humanity praying to one supreme consciousness, with whatever different opinions we may have on what that may be. Thirdly, we recognise that interfaith partnership does not in itself imply agreement.

The things we agree on are many and precious. What we disagree on is precious too. We give our interior assent to all who stand and pray for peace with us. When that is challenging, we withhold our interior assent, yet stand with that person, as a friend and as a partner for peace.

The Week of Prayer for World Peace 2017 is Sunday 8th October to Sunday 16th October. Use this leaflet of reflections and prayers during this week and at any time you feel moved to and let us know how you observe the Week of Prayer for World Peace—contact details on the order form.

Would you like to become a Friend of the
Week of Prayer for World Peace?

We are inviting organizations and individuals to sponsor us so that we can continue our work. Please contact maggiebrizzi@yahoo.co.uk or j.jackson215@btinternet.com for details of how to set up your standing order at
£30 per annum for corporate sponsorship
£15 per individual or £20 per family.



DAY ONE

World Leaders

We pray that all our world leaders be inspired by the qualities of wisdom, compassion, grace and generosity

Lord of Peace, be with those who guide the destinies of the world so that an end may come to boasting and vainglory and the reign of arrogance dwindle in our time, so that we may stand upright, freed from the burden of fear and the weight of suspicion, learning to trust each other. - ***Jewish***

Humanity needs leaders of integrity and conscience, ready to be held to account by individuals and institutions, national and international. We pray for those in positions of power. We call on them, as public servants, to work with all of good faith to build the world we seek, to fertilise the soil in which the tender shoots of peace, love

and unity may flourish.

- ***Quaker Statement, February 2017***

He who forgives and seeks reconciliation shall be rewarded by Allah.

- ***Muslim, Koran, Chapter 42***

May the memory of wars strengthen our efforts for peace;

May the memory of those who died inspire our service to the living;

May the memory of past destruction move us to build for the future;

O God of peace, O Companion of our souls, O Builder of Love and Justice in the world, Hear our prayer.

- ***Sue Gale, WPWP Committee***



DAY TWO

The Environment

We pray for assistance with the responsibility of stewardship for Your creation

Lord, may we love all Your creation – All the earth and every grain of sand in it. May we love every leaf, every ray of Your light.

For we acknowledge to You that all life is Like an ocean, all is flowing and blending And that to withhold any measure of Love from anything in Your universe Is to withhold the same measure from You.

- ***Fyodor Dostoyevsky***

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.

- ***Sikh, K.P. Singh***

O mover of miracles within me

Pour the healing waters of compassion

On the wounded body of humanity

And make it whole, make it whole!

- ***Ancient Sanskrit Prayer***

When a man turns his face towards God he finds sunshine everywhere.

All men are his brothers.

- ***Bahá'í, 'Abdu'l-Bahá***



DAY THREE

Refugees and Victims of War

We pray that our hearts be open to those in need

There can be no peace without justice; no love without trust; and no unity without equality. Our faith urges us to welcome the stranger as our equal and friend, feed those who are hungry and shelter those who are homeless, needy and frightened.

- ***Quaker Statement 2017***

O Thou Provider! The dearest wish of this servant of Thy Threshold is to behold the friends of East and West in close embrace; to see all members of human society gathered with love in a single great assemblage, even as individual drops of water collected in one mighty sea; to behold them all as birds in one garden of roses, as pearls of one ocean, as leaves of one tree, as rays of one sun.

- ***Bahá'í, 'Abdu'l-Bahá***

Heavenly Father,
You are the source of all goodness,

generosity and love.

We thank you for opening the hearts of many

To those who are fleeing for their lives.

Help us now to open our arms in welcome,
And reach out our hands in support.

That the desperate may find new hope,
And lives torn apart be restored.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
Your Son, Our Lord,

Who fled persecution at His birth
And at His last triumphed over death.

Amen - ***Christian***

Because I am that steadfast worshipper bound to Righteousness, with the best thoughts and endless love for you, I shall endeavour in the way you wish it, to guide and improve the condition of human beings. O Wisdom, I would like to see in you my confidant and interlocutor. -

Zoroastrian, The Gathas



DAY FOUR

The Animal Kingdom

We pray for assistance with the conservation of our wildlife

May I be free from suffering; May I be at peace;
May you be free from suffering; May you be at peace;
May all beings be free from suffering; May all beings be at peace. - ***The Buddha***

As Wind carries our prayers for Earth and Air and Life,
May respect and love light our way.

May our hearts be filled with compassion for others and for ourselves.

May peace increase on Earth. May it begin with me. - ***Tibetan Wind Horse Prayer***

I grant forgiveness to all living beings,
May all the living beings please forgive me.
I have friendship with all the living beings.
I have no hostility towards anyone. - ***Jain***



DAY FIVE

Child Soldiers

We pray that children cease to be used as instruments of war

In this world, which has developed the most sophisticated technologies, weapons are sold that end up in the hands of child soldiers.

We must do everything possible so that the dignity of children may be respected, and end this form of slavery.

Whoever you are, if you are moved as I am, I ask you to join in this prayer intention: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over. - **Pope Francis**

Please reach out to all the child soldiers throughout the world. Help give them the chance to live a normal healthy life. Help their governments stabilize, and put the violence that surrounds them to rest. Also

help the child soldiers become closer to You, and find forgiveness in themselves for the acts they committed. Amen. - **Christian**

I little thought when we said goodbye,
We were parted forever and you were to die,
But the foreign grave was the bitterest blow,
That only an aching heart can know.
You are laid to rest in a far-off land,
And your grave I may never see,
But some gentle hand in that far-off land
May sprinkle some flowers for me.
- **The mother of Fred Edwards wrote this on his memorial card—recently found after 101 years. Fred was 23 when he was killed in the war in 1916.**



DAY SIX

Alternatives to Violence

We pray for peaceful alternatives to violence in all conflict resolution, and reductions in arms manufacturing and military spending

Teach me the way of peace,
not a peace that is frail and feeble
but a peace that is strong and firm and brave,
a healing of wounds, a facing of truth,
a building of new understanding,
and generous always. - **Sue Gilmurray**

Lord God, sometimes we feel we are trying to burn like stars in the dark and our light grows dim. We ask that we may hold on to the shining light of your way for all your children, that our lights may never be extinguished as we strive to do whatever we can, however small, to bring a ray of light and hope into the darkest corners of the world. We turn away from the weapons of

mass destruction, of arming ourselves while others starve, of putting our trust in military power for our security, instead of the power of love to overcome fear and suspicion which can transform situations and lives, as Jesus taught us.
- **Sue Gale, WPWP Committee**

Wise God, Share your wisdom with the leaders of the world who continue to stockpile dangerous weapons, giving other countries the incentive to do the same. We pray for the ability to overcome our brokenness, cooperating, instead of competing, across borders and boundaries. We cry out for peace! - **Source Unknown**



DAY SEVEN

Those we perceive as our enemies

We pray that the unity of all humanity be recognised

Do not allow difference of opinion, or diversity of thought to separate you from your fellow men, or to be the cause of dispute, hatred and strife in your hearts. Rather, search diligently for the truth and make all men your friends.

- ***Bahá'í, 'Abdu'l-Bahá***

We are created to cooperate together for the common good, to make this a world where caring and sharing matter more than things, where tolerance and understanding are fostered and justice brings hope and security to all. - ***Archbishop Desmond Tutu about the World Peace Pathway, The Hague. World Peace Flame Foundation***

Let us offer ourselves to God, that we may be peacemakers, and that we may be given the grace to be followers and disciples of Christ, that we may not

recoil in fear or respond with hate, and for governments and people to move away from reliance on terror to trust and cooperation, so that we may reach out in love to each other and so build friendships rather than make enemies. - ***Sue Gale, WPWP Committee***

We condemn all acts of government which set people against one another; which discriminate against people because of who they are or where they were born. We reject policies which condone suspicion and hatred; which turn away those who need and depend upon our help. We were not put on Earth for this, but to be a people of God, to live in harmony with each other.

- ***Quaker Statement, 2017***



DAY EIGHT

Truth

We pray for recognition of the fundamental importance of the quality of Truth

Even if you are a minority of one
The Truth is the Truth - ***Mahatma Gandhi***

It takes courage to remain stable and true to my values in the face of adversity.

- ***Brahma Kumaris***

While you are proclaiming peace with your lips,
Be careful to have it even more fully in your heart. - ***Francis of Assisi***

Truth is the greatest virtue. It is happiness. Happy is the one who is truthful for the sake of truth. - ***Zoroastrian***

It takes time to build up a trusting relationship. Being truthful, simple, kind and open is one way to earn the trust of others.

- ***Brahma Kumaris***

Do not attach yourself to a particular creed or religion exclusively,

So that you disbelieve in all the rest,
Otherwise you will lose much good;

Nay, you will fail to recognise

The real truth of the matter.

God, the Omnipresent and Omnipotent,
Is not limited by one creed.

Wheresoever you turn, there is the face of God. - ***Muslim, Ibn El-Arabi***

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Email: maggiebrizzi@yahoo.co.uk or j.jackson215@btinternet.com

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Supporting Organisations include:

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Announcement of the 2017 Wilson/Hinkes 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 WPWP, the Award is made annually. It is valued at £500 and this year is sponsored by the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

Nominations describing the nominee's contribution to peace and justice issues should be sent by 15 July 2017 to Sue Gale billandsuegale@blueyonder.co.uk and Sue Claydon vicechair@anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk.

An interfaith gathering of prayer and peace will be held

Sunday 8th October 2.30 pm

Hinde St. Methodist Church

19 Thayer St, Marylebone, London W1U 2QJ

Nearest Tube station is Bond Street with plenty of buses along Oxford Street

ALL WELCOME!

WPWP 43rd Year!

Sunday 8th October 2017 to Sunday 16th October 2017

*Please join in and together, from the depth of our hearts, let's send out
a united prayer for peace for ourselves, our communities
and all parts of the world.*