

Prayers and reflections about peace

Martin Luther King Jr

Peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter – Joe Miller

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it. They would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and the creatures in the water. The people would declare it sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it and defend it with their lives because they would somehow know that their lives could be nothing without it.

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.

Pope John Paul II

To reach peace,
teach peace.

Dhammapada: 130

Life is dear to all.
Comparing others
with oneself, one should
neither kill nor cause to
kill.

Qur'an 25:63

The worshippers of the All-Merciful are
they who tread gently upon the earth,
and when the ignorant address them,
they reply, "Peace!"

A child's prayer for peace

Dear God,
We thank you for giving us your peace.
Help us to spread peace at home and at school
by loving and caring for one another.
Help us to spread peace by listening to one another,
even when we don't agree.
Help us to spread peace by sharing our time
with those who are lonely and who need a friend.
Help us to spread peace by thinking and praying
for children who have no food or
who are frightened and live in fear.
Let us pray every day for peace
for our families, for our friends
and for ourselves.

Amen

Mahabharata 18:116:37-41

Ahimsa [nonviolence] is the greatest gift. Ahimsa is the highest self-control. Ahimsa is the highest sacrifice. Ahimsa is the highest power. Ahimsa is the highest friend. Ahimsa is the highest truth. Ahimsa is the highest teaching.

A prayer of Desmond Tutu

Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.

Rhyfel (War) by Hedd Wyn

Gwae fi fy myw mewn oes mor ddreng,
A Duw ar drai ar orwel pell;
O'i ôl mae dyn, yn deyrn a gwreng,
Yn codi ei awdurdod hell.

Pan deimlodd fyned ymaith Dduw
Cyfododd gledd i ladd ei frawd;
Mae swm yr ymladd â'r ein clyw,
A'i gysgod ar fythynnod tlawd.

Mae'r hen delynau genid gynt
Yng nghrog ar gangau'r helyg draw,
A gwaedd y bechgyn lond y gwynt,
A'u gwaed yn gymyg efo'r glaw.

Alas, this is an age so mean
That everyman is made a Lord,
For all authority's absurd
When God himself fades from the scene.

As quick as God is shown the door
Out come the cannons and the sword:
Hate on hate on brother poured
And scored the deepest on the poor.

The harps that once could help our pain
Hang silent, to the willows pinned.
The cry of battle fills the wind
And blood of lads - it falls like rain.

Guru Nanak

No one is my enemy,
no one is a foreigner,
with all I am at peace,
God within us renders us
incapable of hate and
prejudice.

Matthew 5:38-44

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good for those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Blessed are you peacemakers

When you speak out against violence.
When you stand by those who are hurt or ridiculed.
When you listen to those you disagree with.
When you give your time and energy to help others.
When you try to forgive those who hurt you.
When you love and open yourself to others.

Leviticus 19:18

Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself.

I believe

I believe in the sun
Even when it is not shining

I believe in love
Even when I do not feel it

I believe in God
Even when he is silent

Found on the walls of a cellar in Germany where Jews were hidden

Thich Nhat Hanh

Peace is every step.