

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.

Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

(Anglican)

Creator God

Today in a fractured world we pray for peace and justice,

Your peace, not built on our broken promises and failing courage,

But your deep peace, through your creative power and embodied in the service and sacrifice of Jesus.

May we follow Christ, seeking your justice, acting in solidarity and hope,

Even when the way seems unclear and the powers of our world don't reflect your Kingdom,

Your Peace, Your Justice, Your Kingdom, Your world,

In Jesus name

Amen.

(Methodist)

Lord, bless us in our longing for peace in this troubled world,

When so many innocent people are caught up in civil conflicts and in hostility between nations.

Lord, guide us in the way of peace and away from disaster so that our human family can live in harmony

Free from conflicts that bring suffering to millions of refugees.

Lord, enlighten leaders everywhere.

Help them to overcome barriers of prejudice and learn to welcome as members of one family, all who share our common humanity.

Amen

(The Prayer Trust)

Wonderful Counsellor

We pray for peace but all too often we forget that peace must come from the heart.

Give me the grace to listen to those who don't agree with my own thoughts.

The understanding to hear what they say

And the Patience to explain what I feel with love in my heart.

In this way I pray that those I meet may feel the love that comes from knowing you which when I focus on you alone gives me that inner peace.

(Catherine Roots)

If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.

(Lao-Tzu, 6th century BCE)

May peace be your virtue,
May peace be your property,
May peace be your prayer.

May you bring peace to all those you meet, you talk to, you live with.

May you even bring peace to the person you hate, your enemy.

May your friends enjoy your peaceful disposition and may your enemies enjoy your peaceful opposition.

May this world be based on one word: peace.

As God has shredded himself into all souls and piece by piece we get together into this beautiful world, may we pray in our hearts this day for world peace. Sat Nam.

(Sikh tradition)

Living God,

Who shall judge between the nations:

We ask that that you would lead the nations in the paths of peace

And that the dividing wall of hostility would be broken down.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

(Church of Scotland)

O God, channel our hearts so that they pulsate love and empathy, rather than emit hatred and apathy.

Focus our eyes so that they see the endless potential in people's divine souls, rather than see the limits of their physical bodies.

Tune our voices so that they speak words and sing songs of unity and empowerment, rather than tones of discord and division.

Guide our hands and feet so that they become Your instruments of kindness and peace, rather than tool of cruelty and destructiveness,

(Rabbi Pinchas Alouche)

In a world where violence seems to rule,
 we commit, O God, to small random acts of peace making.
Where people are oppressed
 because they look, act, speak, think or love differently
 we will affirm their freedom.
Where people are exploited
 because they lack the strength or resources to refuse,
 we will seek to create alternatives.
Where people are controlled
 through threat and fear,
 we will offer safety and hope.
Where people believe their violence and power
 give them the right and ability to act as they please
 we will call them to account.
Wherever violence is done to another,
 through physical force, manipulation of truth,
 or the subtle workings of power,
 we will opt out,
 we will speak out,
 and we will stand out in opposition,
 through small, random acts of peace making.
In Jesus' Name,
Amen.
(© John Van de Laar)

For peace in your country
For the victims of violence everywhere
For those struggling for peace and justice
For churches in conflict situations
For a world without war and violence.
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 beings, our world and our universe.
Amen
(*World Prayer for Peace from the World Council of Churches, Vancouver Assembly 1983*)

Loving God,
as we work for peace – give us wisdom,
as we strive for justice – give us courage,
as we tear down the walls that divide – give us strength, as we care for those in need –
give us compassion. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
(*The Revd Ian Brown - RAF chaplain*)

May we have the courage to stand for what is right and the strength to be forgiving.
May we have the vision to see a world free from violence and the faith to believe in a new world where fear no longer drives injustice.
Help us to devote our lives to the task of making peace, so that we may fulfil the purpose for which we were created.

Amen.

(Jane Brough - and AI)

Come as a dove flying over still waters of hope, putting peace into the hearts of people who would wage war.

Come to the captives and the refugees. Comfort all people who wait for freedom and all people who wait for them to be free.

Come as the sound of silence to hear the cries of people whose lives are limited by gender-based violence and domination. Stir up the hearts of all who abuse their power and privilege.

Come as flames of justice to a world where children are hungry; a world ripped apart by untruths and greed.

Come as water cascading down a mountain washing away the inequities of wealth and poverty. Come change the story. Come Holy Spirit, come now.

Amen.

(Penny McCulloch, worship leader, Balsall Common Methodist Church, West Midlands)

History can inspire or trap

Walls can protect or divide.

Words can encourage or inflame.

Power can free or destroy.

Touched can comfort or violate.

Peace can be shared or withheld.

Gracious God, on this day,

when we remember past and present conflicts,

we pray for the divided peoples of the world,

that leaders, governments, and each one of us

may use our resources,

our opportunities and our lives

in the service of reconciliation,

for the sake of future generations

and to the glory of your name

Amen.

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