



Global Peace Prayer

Wednesday - March 22, 2023

“And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

Isaiah 2:4

Christians are called into prayer and advocacy for peace. In a global context where war and violence abound the practice of peace has become even more urgent.

The war in Ukraine has entered its second year, simultaneously escalating violence in Palestine, continuing military exercises threatening peace on the Korean peninsula, state violence in Myanmar, a fragile situation in Ethiopia and war in several other parts of the world threaten peace.

Last year, The Baptist World Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation, The Mennonite World Conference, World Methodist Council, the Conference of European Churches and the World Communion of Reformed Churches organized an online global peace prayer on the 2nd of March. This was attended by over five thousand people from about one hundred and fifty countries.

This year, these Christian World Communions, along with the World Council of Churches, will be organizing a **Global Peace Prayer on Wednesday, 22nd of March, 2023**. There is an online service, but it is at 3am NZ-time! Nevertheless, let us in Aotearoa-New Zealand start this day of Global Prayer for Peace in our own time zone.

(For the WCC press release see: <https://www.oikoumene.org/news/global-peace-prayer-will-draw-christians-together-in-hope-for-better-future>)

If your faith community normally holds a time of prayer or service on the 22nd, or in your own personal or family prayer time, be encouraged to include prayers for peace.

National Dialogue for Christian Unity – Aotearoa New Zealand

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GLOBAL PEACE PRAYER

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As people of faith and citizens of a nation that values freedom and justice, peace is indeed our deepest desire: peace for our hearts, peace for our lands, and peace for all the world. Therefore let us call upon God, the One who calls us towards peace that endures.

shortened from Interfaith Service of Peace, Lancaster UK; Holy Ground (Wild Goose Publications)

PRAYER OF APPROACH

From the rising of the sun until its setting

God of peace

God of justice

God of infinite mercy – remember your people.

From the bleakness of war to the lavish warmth of peace

God of peace

God of justice

God of infinite mercy – remember your people.

From the pain of the present moment to the peace of eternity

God of peace

God of justice

God of infinite mercy – remember your people.

We turn to you, God, asking that you enfold our planet in your justice, peace and truth. Enlighten the minds of those making decisions, melt the hearts of those inflicting cruelty upon your children, and strengthen the resolve of all who pray for peace.

And may God bless us – and the peoples who share our planet.

May God hold our world and all its people in the palm of his hand. Amen.

Holy Ground (Wild Goose Publications)

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Gracious God,

our world needs your peace,

our hearts need your peace,

our churches need your peace,

our societies need your peace,

our minds need your peace,

our families need your peace,

our work for justice needs your peace,

our fears need your peace,

our children need your peace.

Spread over all your banner of peace

to heal the broken and restore the unclean.

As we journey in community instil the peace we need to become peacemakers, your blessed children,

building communities of justice and peace for all humanity. Amen.

World Council of Churches – Busan Assembly 2013

BENEDICTION

We have shared a moment of peace.

We hold onto a faith that says the world can be transformed.

We take this love as our gift to the world.

Go in the name of Jesus, the Word of Life and the Prince of Peace.

Christian World Service 2015 (alt.)