



THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe

2026 - 2027

Free

Shared Faith Worship

Over five decades ago, leaders from various faiths joined together and wrote: "In the turmoil of a world increasingly dominated by violence and characterised by bewilderment and confusion created by the apparent impotence of humankind to alleviate suffering caused by injustice except by more recourse to violence, it seems to us that an unprecedented spiritual initiative is urgently required.

We therefore wish to commend the idea of the World Week of Prayer for Peace."

These words could have been written today.

The interfaith Week of Prayer for World Peace takes place each October. Bringing together people from all faith communities and none, it has given a chance to learn and share.

It may seem impossible that in 1974 those leaders wrote, "The situation is urgent. Violent conflict within nations and the ever-present threat of war between nations or races pose unprecedented dangers. The delicately interwoven structures of modern society and the contraction of the world by speedy communications have made every part of the globe immediately vulnerable to the effects of any outbreak of violent conflict. But these same factors also offer an unprecedented opportunity to create a quickened sense of humanity. Therein lies the overwhelming need for a Week of Prayer for World Peace."

That threat and the reality of war between nations sadly is now part of 2026.

You are invited to use the prayers/thoughts/poems in this resource for individual and corporate use throughout the year as well as during the WPWP. (See back cover for ordering more copies). As George Macleod (founder of the Iona Community), wrote: "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."

The Week of Prayer for World Peace will run from the 11-18 October 2026.

An Interfaith Gathering of Prayer and Peace

The annual Gathering will again this year be a virtual one.

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

It will be held on Sunday, 11th October 2025 at 3:30-4:30pm (London) (open from 3pm)

There will also be one on the same day for the Pacific time zones.

There will be music, prayers, storytelling and the presentation of the 2026 Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award.

This is an opportunity to join together to pray and witness for peace.

Further details on the website or email: wppw2021@yahoo.com for the zoom link.

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

**Please make a donation:- A/C Name: The Week of Prayer for World Peace Bank: Lloyds,
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Please email us at: keithsc_2000@yahoo.com to let us know if you have made a donation.

INTRODUCTION

In this 52nd year of the WPWP we have gone back and looked at previous resources as well as new ones to help us focus our prayers, during WPWP and throughout the year. Former entries are noted 'WPWP' and the year. We have also shared some from 'Peace Prayers' by Roger Grainer, which the WPWP Committee edited in 2006 and they are noted 'PP 06'.

We begin our journey with a few thoughts for praying for peace, justice and reconciliation:

Prayer is a conscious choice to seek God, in whatever form that Divine Presence speaks to each of us, moment to moment. David Johnson, Quaker

May we, living rightly, come to know truth so that, abiding in peace, we may bring peace to all beings; for everything is changing, nothing is our own, and not seeing clearly, we perpetuate the disease of the world. Buddhist (PP 06)

We are going to have to create a new language of prayer, out of something which transcends all our traditions and comes out the immediacy of love. Thomas Merton (PP 06)

"And seek help in patience and prayer." the Qu'ran (2:45)

Prayer is one of the most ancient and underestimated tools for bringing peace to this world. Savitri MacCusish, Co-founder World Peace Flame Foundation

The peace of the world must be prayed for by the faiths of the world. Dean Edward Carpenter, first Chair of WPWP)

Day One: The Healing of the Nations

Almighty God, you have made of one blood all the nations of people to dwell on the face of the earth: draw together we pray, in true fellowship, men and women of different races, languages, customs and religions so that bearing one another's burdens, and working together in brotherly concord, they may fulfil the purpose of your providence and set forward your everlasting kingdom.

(Part of WPWP Prayer 1978)

Let us pray that all member nations (of the UN) will join together in the quest for peace, united in an assembly which places conflict into a structure of dialogue, which promotes peace and turns swords into ploughshares. AMEN

(WPWP 1991)

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more!

(Isaiah 2:4/ Jewish)

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(The Book of Common Prayer, p. 823)

Many Nations shall come and say: Come let
us climb up onto the mountainside of the
Lord...and all the people may walk in the
name of their God...

(Micah 4:2:5, Jewish WPWP 1992)



O God of many names
Lover of all nations
We pray for peace
In our hearts
In our homes
In our nations
In our world
the peace of your will
the peace of our need

(Bishop George Appleton WPWP 1991)

Day Two the Healing of the Planet and its Creatures

OM... May divine blessing shower upon us. May peace pervade the whole human race. May there
be an abundance of plants that we use. May humanity prosper, Oh God, and animals flourish.

OM...PEACE..

(Hindu)



Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father,
Today, we send Your healing light throughout the world:
To all humanity who call this planet home,
To the animals who walk upon the earth,
To the birds that grace the open skies,
And to the fish that dwell within the deep seas.
May all living beings coexist in harmony and peace.
May our ancient trees and forests be preserved,
And may the vast oceans remain pure and clean.
Grant that the fish may swim in pristine waters,
That all animals may be spared from cruelty and suffering,
And that every bird may fly forever free.

(Brahma Kumaris)

We pray for ...an end to over-exploitation of natural resources for financial profit, greater
respect shown to the other species who share their world with us, and a more thoughtful
and responsible stewardship of time, our own and nature's.

(From WPWP Prayer 2002)

Be thou praised, my Lord, of our Sister Mother Earth, which sustains and hath us in rule,
and produces divers fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

(St Francis of Assisi WPWP 1992)

We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to Thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realise that they live not for us alone, but for themselves and for Thee and that they love the sweetness of life.

(St. Basil, AD 375)

Water flows over these hands

May I use them skillfully

To preserve our precious planet.

(Thich Nhat, Hahn, Buddhist (WPWP 2015))

It is not only their fellow human beings that the beloved of God must treat with mercy and compassion, rather must they show forth the utmost loving-kindness to every living creature. For in all physical respects, and where the animal spirit is concerned, the selfsame feelings are shared by animal and man. Man hath not grasped this truth, however, and he believeth that physical sensations are confined to human beings, wherefore is he unjust to the animals, and cruel.

(Baha'ullah (Baha'i) WPWP 1992)

Day Three: Healing for Ourselves

As we open ourselves to become the channel of God's healing grace we shall find that healing is given to those who pray as well as to those for whom we are praying.

(Jack Dodds, 1984., Quaker Faith and Practice 21.73)

Dear Father of all, I trust in Your love for me, even when I struggle to love myself. As I practice Your virtues of love, peace, respect, and tolerance each day, help me grow in compassion for who I am.

Let these virtues quieten my longing for praise, approval, or position.

As I receive Your love more deeply, may I carry one of Your qualities into every word and action. In this way, I learn to live in the truth of who you created me to be.

(Brahma Kumaris)

Though a man conquer a thousand times a thousand men in battle, he who conquers himself is the real warrior.

(The Buddha, from WPWP 1978)

Go outside! Go outside! Whatever the day brings, it will be better outside. You were made to breathe the open air, feel the sun on your skin and taste the rain on your face. It doesn't matter where you go, how far you travel, who you're with, or how the weather behaves. When you don't know where to turn, when everything is too much, when you feel a yearning for a nameless something you can't identify – you need the wild sky and the wild world. Four walls can never give you the space your heart needs to soar. Go outside!

(Liz Proctor/Earth pathways diary, modern pagan)

Allah does not change a people's lot unless they change what is in their hearts.

(Qu'ran, 13 WPWP 2004)

Peace of mind can only be attained by one who does good. One can only do good if one thinks good. One can teach good only if one thinks and acts good; and only he who acts good and serves others is really living the Right Way. All God's blessings and strength will be given to such a person.

(Ahunavar/Zorastrian (WPWP 2011))

Day Four: Healing for the Healers

Regard yourself as a 'spiritual' doctor. Which 'medicines' do you carry with you for healing, such as listening, caring, kindness, patience, mercy etc. and as you travel through the day will you make these available to others?

(WPWP 1994)

Nobody escapes being wounded. We all are wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. The main question is not, 'How can we hide our wounds, so we don't have to be embarrassed', but 'How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?'

(Henri Nouwen)

The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places.

(Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms)

...a good half of every treatment that probes at all deeply consists in the doctor's examining himself... it is his own hurt that gives a measure of his power to heal. This, and nothing else, is the meaning of the Greek myth of the wounded physician.

(C. G. Jung)

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

(Matthew 25:40)



"Faith, hope and charity, but the greatest of these is charity." Father, bless those who see the plight of refugees and who are meeting their needs. For those who are exhausted, give them renewed strength; For those who are overwhelmed, give them courage; For those who feel fearful, we pray for peace and compassion.

(Mothers' Union (Christian), WPWP 2016)

We pray for all who carry a burden they can neither support nor relinquish. All who labour without ever feeling they have accomplished anything. Those who can see no end to work they are called to do. Discouraged people and those whose life has been shattered or bruised by loss. Those who are expected to carry out jobs no-one else is willing to carry out.

(WPWP 2007)

Day Five: Healing in our Communities

We pray for – divided communities, groups of people of different racial or religious backgrounds living next to one another, all who seek to heal ancient wounds, those who still cling to old bitterness.

(WPWP 2001 Prayer)

Peace is not passive – Peace is dynamic!
Peace in our hearts; Peace in our minds;
Peace with ourselves; Peace with each other;
Peace with our neighbours, our family, our friends;
Peace in our community; Peace in all our relationships;
Peace with all forms of life;
Peace with the Earth.

(By Glennie Kindred/Earth Pathways Diary/ modern pagan)

I have known no distinction between relatives and strangers, countrymen and foreigners, white and black, Hindus and Indians of other faith, whether Muslims, Parsis, Christians or Jews.

(M K Gandhi WPWP 1978)

Lord, let me be aware of the community in which I live...O God, make me a part of the community who search for peace and find in you my neighbour.

(WPWP 1992)

O Thou Provider! The dearest wish of this servant of Thy Threshold is to behold friends of East and West in close embrace; 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.

(‘Abdu'l-Bahá / Baha’i, WPWP 2018)

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

(1 Peter 4 8-10)

Day Six: Healing for those Damaged by War

We pray for - the victims of war people made homeless, deprived of citizenship physically or mentally wounded, those in mental and emotional conflict, those who bear burdens for others, the dispersed, rejected, blamed – by others and themselves. We pray for – children made orphans by war, mothers and small children, the elderly, infirm, disabled and injured, deprived of food and shelter or medical care, separated and disrupted families, homeless people and refugees, those without books or libraries whose schools and universities have been destroyed by war.

(WPWP 2001)

We pray for those who have been tragically wounded, people who are taught bitterness towards others, nations and individuals with scores to settle, those who cannot allow themselves to forgive, those who are unable to let themselves be forgiven May peace triumph over discord.

(Zoroastrian WPWP 2004)

God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. We ask in your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war, those separated from their loved ones.

Those who are struggling to find food in war zones and shelter. Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need.

(WPWP 2009)

O Lord, we are your children and you love all. May this knowledge help us guard the rights of every human being, so that the weak will be supported by the strong and not crushed by them. We pray for all prisoners and for those who imprison others unjustly, aware that your love, O God embraces us all.

(WPWP 1978)

In this world, which has developed the most sophisticated technologies, weapons are put 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 WPWP 2017)

Day Seven: Thanksgiving for those who Care

World Humanitarian Day is a time to honour those who step into crises to help others, and to stand with the millions of people whose lives hang in the balance.

This year the message is clear: the humanitarian system is stretched to its limits; underfunded, overwhelmed and under attack.

Where bombs fall and disasters strike, humanitarian workers are the ones holding the line keeping people alive, often at great personal risk. But more and more those who help are becoming targets themselves.

Pray for:

The protection of humanitarian workers and the civilians they serve

The upholding of international humanitarian law

Funding for the lifelines that support humanitarian workers everywhere

(Adapted from UN World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2026)

We pray for – those involved in caring for people who suffer. Those who share a loving respect for all living creatures. All who neglect their own interests out of compassion for others. Individuals and groups dedicated in caring for people in need. Those who need our love.

(WPWP 2004)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If one of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

(Ecclesiastes 9 v9-10)

Day Eight: Thanksgiving for Peacemakers



Blessed are the peace makers, God shall call them His children.

(Matthew 5:9/ Christian)

There goes the Flower of Peace
The Rose that cannot wither.

(Henry Vaughan (1621 – 1695))

O Lord, make us instruments of your peace: Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

May I seek not so much to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love...

(St Francis of Assisi)

A place in God's court can only be attained if we
do service to others in the world.

(Sikh (PP 06))

And whoever saves one life – it is as if he had
saved mankind entirely.

(Qur'an (5:32))

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger
who announces peace.

(Isaiah 52 v 7/ Jewish)

We are convinced that peace is not only possible, it is one of the most urgent needs of our time. We affirm that every single human being has the right to peace and justice and that at the same time peace is a responsibility we must all assume.

(World Peace Flame, Ambassadors Statement. (WPWP 2012))

Young People's Voices for Peace

Recently there was an exhibition of work young people had done in Novi Sad, Serbia. We share some of the points they made in that exhibition:

- Peace is a state when everything around you and in you is quietly stable and without tension. An environment that is peaceful.
- Peace begins within us in one good word and the decision to be gentle with one another.
- I would tell all people not to go to war, not to argue and fight, not to do ugly things.
- Peace is the ability of people to listen, understand and respect each other even when they disagree. The world we live in is full of diversity. It is precisely these differences that make humanity richer, but they can also be a source of misunderstanding if we do not accept them with an open heart. Being at peace does not mean being the same. It means learning to live next to each other without fear of hatred and violence

The Storm

The storm has passed,
The rain has ceased.
The thunder gone,
The sea is calm.
The waves have crashed,
The rain has fallen,
The thunder struck
Now we are left in peace.

Jad, North London



What divides us;

That divides us
I can send a message
sweet
To say I care for you.
No barrier is too big.
For those who talk peace
In a manner
constructive!
Honest dialogue is
peace's mother
The silent shall be
melancholy's children
Communication that
builds not destroys
Is possible in our lifetime
Let us all work together
To shout Hallelujah
By the gates of Eden.

Peter, 17, Zimbabwe

An idea you might like to try
‘Buddha said, ‘Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.’ What would your word or message for peace be? Collect smooth pebbles, take one and write or draw your message/word for peace on it.

You can keep it or share it.
(WPWP Young Persons’ Leaflet)



“I Am Grateful”

I am grateful for the people,
who support me when I fall,
who remind me I am capable
and help me stand up tall.

I am grateful for my home,
a place where I feel safe,
where warmth wraps round my
shoulders
like a soft and gentle embrace.

Lord, we pray that you protect all
those suffering from wars.
Comfort the families who have lost
loved ones, heal those wounded or in
agony and grant them the courage to
get through tough times.

St Francis of Assisi, Pray for Us.

Esther, 16, Swansea SVP Youth

I am grateful for the chances
to learn, explore, and see,
for every new adventure
that shapes who I will be.

And most of all, I’m grateful,
for kindness – pure and true,
for the kindness that I’m given
and the kindness I can do.

**by the Young Ambassadors for
Peace, Grange Primary School,
UK**

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 in our families, for our friends
and for ourselves.

**A child’s prayer for peace, ‘Teach Peace’, pack, Peace
Education Network, UK**



October 11-18, 2026



All traditions. One shared
longing for peace.



Join a global circle of faith,
hope, and action.



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Daily prayers for world peace
from eight different traditions

Contact

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