

Prayer Service for the International Day of Peace September 21st, 2013

Call to Prayer:

Reader: The United Nations General Assembly has declared September 21st to be the International Day of Peace; it is to be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. The United Nations has invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in establishing a global ceasefire. "Twenty-four hours (of the International Day of Peace) provides relief workers a safe interlude for the provision of vital services; offers mediators a building block towards a wider truce; allows all those engaged in conflict to reconsider the wisdom of further violence." Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

The theme of the 2013 International Day of Peace is "Education for Peace." During this year's commemoration we are invited to examine the role of education in fostering peace and global citizenship. "It is not enough to teach children how to read, write, and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive, and peaceful societies."

Opening Song:

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator
Family are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony**

**Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.**



OPENING PRAYER:

Reader: God, Source of all peace, we gather here as a community of believers to celebrate the International Day of Peace. We are reminded that we are all part of one global human family living together in a world that remains broken and divided. We join in prayer in hopes that the universal desire for peace may be realized. God, help us to recognize that you call each one of us to commit ourselves to the effort of peace in the world.

All: Amen.

The Story of a Peacemaker: Malala Yousafzai

One of the outstanding peacemakers of her generation, Malala Yousafzai is the sixteen year old Pakistani student whose advocacy for education made her a target of Taliban extremists. Let us listen to Malala's testimony to peace at the United Nations this past year.

Show video: Go to: [Malala Yousafzai's Speech at the United Nations](#) to project the speech of Malala at the UN and to hear her testimony about how Education can be a pathway to peace.

Or

Select readings from the text of Malala's speech: Go to : [Text of Malala's speech](#). If this option is chosen a group response in between selections from her speech might be considered. One such response could be: "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

Reflection/ Sharing:

- What occurred to you or stirred in you as you listened to Malala Yousafzai's speech at the U.N.?
- What hope does she inspire?

Prayers of Petition: The response to the petitions will be: May Peace Prevail on Earth

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: O God, on this day, the International Day of Peace, we remember that war and violence continue to maim, kill and destroy hundreds of thousands of human beings who look at their sisters and brothers over the barrels of guns, cannons and missiles.

Help us to hear your voice that counsels forgiveness, compassion, patience and dialogue. Help us to "thirst after ever greater justice," so that we might contribute to a peaceful world. Help us to act on behalf of peace, not only today, but all of the days of our life. All: Amen.

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