

You are invited to find ways to respond to Christ's call to peacemaking. The following are some websites that provide excellent resources that can help you in planning an 'International Day of Peace' in your congregation, assist you in creating a peace curriculum, or support you in whatever way you feel called to practice peace. Follow the links for many wonderful sites.

www.epfnatioanl.org Episcopal Peace Fellowship – Link to Our Resources and Creative Peacemaking Tools

www.wagingnonviolence.org Shares daily coverage of non violent action around the world.

www.wand.org Women's Action for New Directions based in Arlington, MA empowers women to act politically to reduce violence and redirect excessive military resources toward unmet human need. WAND provides an educational curriculum which speaks to women of faith.

www.e4gr.org Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation – An excellent site with ideas about what one person can do, what one congregation can do, what one diocese can do etc. to effect positive change. Lots of information about MDGs.

www.forusa.org Fellowship of Reconciliation – Established in 1915, FOR is the oldest interfaith peace organization with affiliates in 40 countries. Its vision is one of justice, peace, and freedom.

www.friendsofpeacepilgrim.org Peace Pilgrim walked 25,000 miles as a witness for peace from 1953-1981. Her witness continues through her writings which are available for free on request. Follow links to peace pilgrim book and scroll down to request books and materials.

www.tolerance.org A division of the Southern Poverty Law Center, this site provides excellent teaching material on anti bullying.

International Peace Day

The International Day of Peace is celebrated every year on September 21st. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981. In so doing, the UN committed itself to world wide peace. Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and global progress toward peace. Anyone anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It may be as simple as lighting a candle or it may involve a congregation or community involved in a large event.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to a way of peace and invited to affirm that blessing through prayer and practice.

'Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.' Mathew 5:9

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall they learn wars any more. Isaiah 2:4

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

Dwight Eisenhower Former President & 4 Star General

One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Prayer of St. Francis

*Read antiphonally (alternating each side of the congregation)
or responsively.*

- **Lord make us instruments of thy 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;
Where there is sadness, joy.

All in unison

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is giving that we receive; it is pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life

Silent or shared reflection

- When in the recent past have I heard about or experienced pardon, faith, hope or peace?
- How might I now practice pardon, faith, hope, peace and the spreading of joy?

Prayers for Peace

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

O God, the Father/Mother of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Book of Common Prayer

Lord have mercy: For all children at risk in our City, in our world. For the will to make our schools and neighborhoods safe havens; for all parents and teachers and neighbors and public servants who protect and care for our young people; for the courage to alleviate poverty and racism in our communities, that all of us may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person. We pray to you O Lord.

*The Rev. Joy Rodgers,
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