

# Prayer for Peace

A Prayer Service Sponsored by the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in 2003

## Welcome

### Call to Prayer

Leader: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

All: "The nation's shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."  
*Isaiah 2:4*

Leader: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

All: "And the streets of the cities shall be filled with girls and boys playing in its streets."  
*Zechariah 8:5*

Leader: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

All: "The wolf lives with the lamb, and the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little child to lead them." *Isaiah 11:6*

Leader: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

All: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God." *Matthew 5:9*

Leader: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

All: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." *Luke 6*

Leader: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

All: Yes, we have a vision! Let us pursue this vision.

### Opening Prayer

#### Opening Song: "Prayer of St. Francis"

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek. So much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

O Master, grant that I may never seek. So much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.

### **Reading 1: Luke 19: 41-44**

As he drew near the city and came in sight of the city he shed tears over it and said, 'If you in your turn had only understood on this day the message of peace! But, alas, it is hidden from your eyes! Yes, a time is coming when your enemies will raise all around you, when they will encircle you and hem you in on every side ... and all because you did not recognize your opportunity when God offered it!

**Response:** Peace Psalm

*Left Side:* O God of Peace,  
Whose presence we seek in our lives,  
Come this day and show us  
How to beat our swords  
into plowshares,  
Into tools of life instead of instruments of fear.

*Right Side:* May your love strip us naked  
Of all weapons and strategies of conquest,  
Which are not the tools of lovers,  
Wise ones and God's children.

*Left Side:* We throw wide open the windows of our hearts  
So that the peace of your presence  
May pour out in all four directions,  
Showering its blessing upon all the earth.

*Right Side:* As the blessing of your presence encircles the earth,  
May it awaken in all people  
A great desire to serve one another in humble and loving ways.

*Left Side:* Let us be adventurers and peacemakers,  
Hammering swords into shovels,  
Filing holes and leveling peaks.

*Right Side:* Let us be disarmed and vulnerable,  
For only through such open hands and hearts  
Can the God of Peace come.

*Adapted from Prayers For A Planetary Pilgrim by Edward Hays*

**Reading 2:** from Martin Luther King, Jr.

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral; begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy... Returning violence for violence, adding deeper to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

**Reading 3:** *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*  
National Catholic Conference of Bishops, 1983

We are living in a global age with problems and conflicts on a global scale. Either we shall learn to resolve these problems together, or we shall destroy one another. Mutual security and survival require a new vision of the world as one interdependent planet. We have rights and duties not only within our diverse national communities but also within the larger world community. # 244

## **Silent Reflection**

### **Reflections of the youth on peace**

**Hymn:** "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 as Creator, we are family. 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.

### **Prayers from the youth**

#### **Intercessions:**

O God of the nations, we join with you in our longing for peace among all peoples of the earth. We acknowledge our failings to promote peace, and we ask pardon, as we pray:

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

God of mercy and justice, we pray for those leaders charged with making the decisions about war and peace. May they have listening hearts and be blessed with wisdom.

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

We pray that dialogue among peoples will help us overcome distrust and cynicism:

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

We pray that human ingenuity will benefit the whole human family:

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

We pray that collaboration will replace destructive competition between countries:

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

We pray that mutual respect among nations and peoples will replace exploitation:

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

We pray that concern for the common good will permeate negotiations among nations:

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

—Adapted from Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy, 1998

### **Lighting of Candles for Peace**

#### **Litany of Peacemakers:**

Leader: God, creator of the universe, author of our covenant of peace,  
All: We pray to you; empower us.

Leader: God, our way of peace,  
All: We pray to you; empower us.

Leader: Mary, wellspring of reconciliation, mother of peacemakers,  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: Moses and Miriam, nonviolent liberators, architects of the covenant of justice;  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: Amos, Micah and Hosea, voices for the oppressed,  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: Peter and Paul, prisoners of conscience,  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: Magdalene, first witness of the resurrection,  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: Francis of Assisi, lover of creation, poor man with nothing to fight for,  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: Gandhi, nonviolent warrior,  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: Dorothy Day, lady poverty, mother courage, witness to the radical gospel of peace,  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: All you holy peacemakers,  
All: Pray for us.

Leader: Jesus, Prince of Peace,  
All: We pray to you, empower us.

#### **Closing Blessing**

Response: We commit ourselves to continue the work of peace making.  
We call upon the Holy One of all people to be with us.  
We believe peace is possible. Grant us courage and boldness to act.  
Let us walk in the light to peace.

**Closing Song:** "One More Gift" by Manoling Francisco, SJ

Refrain:        If there's one more gift, I'd ask of You Lord  
                  it would be peace here on earth  
                  as gentle as Your children's laughter all around, all around.

Your people have grown weary of living in confusion.  
When will we realize that neither heaven is at peace when we live not in peace?

Grant me serenity within, for the confusions around  
are mere reflections of what's within, what's within me.

*\* Adapted from the Vigil at end of Lobby Day on September 25th in Freedom Plaza, Washington, D.C.*