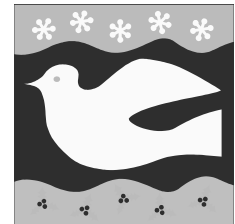


UNITED FOR PEACE **PRAYERS FOR PEACE**



The following prayers, from a variety of faith traditions, were offered daily during the summer at Chautauqua Institution, New York.

The idea was that anyone could stop at a particular time in the day and take 5 minutes to pray for peace.

What if each congregation in our Conference selected a 5 minute time when anyone could pray these prayers or their own prayers. How about 8:55 – 9:00am ...or 9:55 – 10:00 pm.....or any other 5 minute period in the day. Our prayers would echo throughout the conference throughout the day!

Opening Prayer

God of all people; all nature; all creation, we come before You this day to ask for the healing of our hungry, hurting and war-weary world.

We come confessing our deep divisions and our failure to make peace a priority in our hearts; in our families; in our communities; in our nation; and in our world.

We kneel in our hearts.

We come in prayer.

Our sorrow for lives lost and hearts broken overwhelm us.

We turn to You

and ask You to make us agents of Your peace.

The Nature of Peace

Peace is not the product of terror or fear.

Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.

Peace is the generous tranquil contribution of all, to the good of all.

Peace is dynamism.

Peace is generosity.

It is light and duty.

Oscar A. Romero

20th Century El Salvadorian Archbishop

The Tao of Peace

“If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.”

Lao Tzu (Laozi) 4th Century BCE

A Prayer for the World

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.

Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt and neglect.

Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.

Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.

Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly, so that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness melt away our selfishness,

so that we can share the joys and Feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers

to surround us with beauty.

And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upwards to heaven.

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

Parade Magazine March 24, 2003

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, children all 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.