



United Nations International Day of Peace



Prayer Service

SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

Sisters of the Holy Cross
Congregation Justice Committee
Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace Working Group

U.N. International Day of Peace

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OPENING SONG *World Peace Prayer* by Marty Haugen

Refrain:

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from des-
pair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from
hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our
hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

Verses:

1. Still all the an - gry cries, still all the an - gry guns,
2. So man - y lone - ly hearts, so man - y bro - ken lives,
still now your peo - ple die, earth's sons and daugh - ters.
long - ing for love to break in - to their dark - ness.
Let jus - tice roll, let mer - cy pour down,
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
come and teach us your way of com - pas - sion.
come and teach us your way of com - pas - sion.

FIRST READING

“You have heard the commandment, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you, offer no resistance to the wicked ones. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek as well. If someone takes you to the law and would have your tunic, offer that person your cloak as well. And if someone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with them.

“. . . You have heard it said, ‘Love your neighbor — but hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. . . .”

— *Matthew 5:38-43*

Pause for silent reflection.

RESPONSE (*all*)

“It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence in this world; it’s nonviolence or nonexistence.”

— *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

SECOND READING

“Violence is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win understanding; it thrives on hatred rather than love. Violence ends by defeating itself.”

— *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

Pause for silent reflection.

RESPONSE (*all*)

“We must be the change we wish to see in the world.”

— *Mohandas Gandhi*

THIRD READING

Story of the Sparrow

It was a chilly, overcast day when the rider of the horse spied the little sparrow lying on its back in the middle of the road. Reining in the mount, the rider looked down and inquired of the fragile creature: “Why are you lying upside down like that?”

“I heard the heavens were going to fall today,” replied the bird.

The rider laughed. “And I suppose your spindly legs can hold up the heavens?”

“One does what one can,” said the little sparrow.

– Author unknown

Pause for silent reflection.

RESPONSE (*all*)

“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”

– Margaret Mead

REFLECTION/
SHARING

After reflecting on the following, each person is invited to share her responses.

Name an obstacle to peace in our world.

What action will I commit to take to help overcome this obstacle?

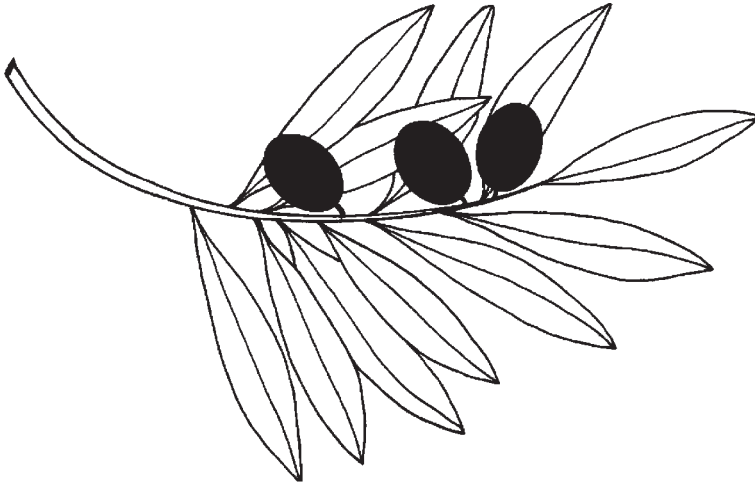


CLOSING PRAYER
(recite together)

O God, who out of nothing
brought everything that is,
Out of what we are
bring more of what we dream but haven't dared;
direct our power and passion
to creating life where there is death,
to putting the flesh of action on bare-boned intentions,
to lighting fires of warmth against
the midnight of indifference,
to throwing bridges of care across canyons of loneliness;
so we can look on creation
together with you,
and behold,
call it very good.

Amen.

— from *Guerillas of Grace*, by Ted Loder



CLOSING SONG

World Peace Prayer by Marty Haugen

Refrain:



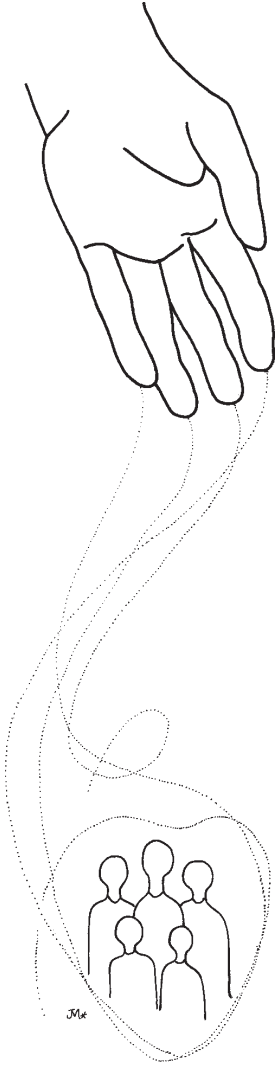
Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from des-
pair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from
hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our
hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

Verses:



1. Let jus - tice ev - er roll, let mer - cy fill the earth,
let us be - gin to grow in - to your peo - ple.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
we can still be your way of com - pas - sion.

Text: Refrain, Upanishads, Satish Kumar; verses, Marty Haugen. Tune: Marty Haugen. Text and music: © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702873.



WE MUST OVERCOME HATE.

WE MUST OVERCOME VIOLENCE.

WE MUST OVERCOME GREED.

WE MUST OVERCOME FIGHTING.

WE MUST OVERCOME CRUELTY.

WE MUST OVERCOME ALL THAT

TEARS PEOPLE APART

AND CONCENTRATE ON ALL THAT

BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN. SO BE IT.



Sisters of the Holy Cross

পবিত্র ক্রুশ ভগিনীগণ

Irmãs da Santa Cruz

Hermanas de la Santa Cruz