

Prayer Vigil for Peace

Fridays at 6:00 pm



SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH • CORONA DEL MAR, CA
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You are invited to stand.

Good and gracious God, you have bound us together in a common life. We come this day with pain at the death and injuries caused by war and violence. Nations and families mourn; children live in fear. Gather us all in your gracious arms. Touch our hearts with your love, heal our brokenness, and turn us away from violence toward peace. Help us to transform our own hearts and to seek peaceful ways of resolving our differences. Let our hands reach out and connect with those who feel alone, those who live in fear, those who see no way out. Give us courage to work for change, for a world in which all may live in peace and safety. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Psalm 85:7-13

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

**I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

All are invited to come forward and light a candle during this time of silence.

Holy and life-giving God: send your reconciling Spirit among us. Live and move and have being in every human heart. Do your work among your people – crumbling the barriers that divide us, stemming the violence that pervades our country and our world, bringing an end to the hatreds and the hostilities that break your loving purpose. Heal our brokenness, O God, that we may live in harmony as one people.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Creating God: you made us in your own image; you made us for peace. And yet too often we choose to live in ways that destroy the very humanity you intend for us. Call forth in us that which is of you. Grant us the courage and perseverance to embody your peaceful ways in ourselves and in our relationships with one another.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Mothering God: you gather the suffering in your loving embrace. Come and dwell with those who have lost loved ones to the violence of our world. Comfort them in every affliction. With tenderness, console them in the hours of their need. In your compassion, and by your mercy, heal their torn hearts and lives, and restore them to fullness of life.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Discerning God: you know our hearts, and from you no secrets are hidden. You know the impulse to anger that lies within us and the urge to strike out. Call us to recognize all within us that would break your people. Lead us away from anger towards a deeper love. Strengthen our resolve to live as your compassion, your peace, and your reconciling love in all that we say and in all that we do.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of our redemption: our cities and streets have become places of war and violence. Our schools and our homes have moved from places of safety and sustenance to places of fear and anxiety. Let us not be silent. Create in us such a desire for civility, such a longing for peace, such a love for our neighbor that we will not be stopped in our efforts to restore our neighborhoods and our towns. Raise up among your faithful people a common desire to redeem all that you have entrusted to us. Make us bold for peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving God: you love every person that you have made and call us to do the same. Give us the wisdom and grace to be close to all who suffer in body, mind, spirit, or relationship. Give us the courage to be present to those who live in isolation; to comfort those whom no one comforts; to see those whose pain we would rather not see. Give us ministering hearts and healing hands. Turn our lives and the lives of our churches and communities to seek those who need to see your love in our eyes.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace: you challenge us to pray and to work for peace. Give courage to those who seek your purposes. Stand with those who struggle to reduce violence and to end war, who work to protect the lives of every person. Uphold them in their work by your grace, that we may be known as people of peace, as lovers of justice.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Reading from the prophet Micah (4:1-5)

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they 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 any more; but they shall sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all the people walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I 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 in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and evermore.