

Prayer Vigil for Peace

Fridays at 6:00 pm



Good and gracious God, giver of life and love: in this season of waiting and expectation, be with all people who long for peace. You call your children to live together as one family; give us grace to learn your ways and do your will, that there may be justice and peace for all people. We pray for the power to be gentle, the strength to be forgiving, the patience to be understanding, and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding on to what we believe to be right. Help us to be makers of peace. We pray in the Name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Psalm 72:1-8 *Deus, iudicium*

Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son.

**That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**He shall rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

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

Sung first by the Cantor, then by all.

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O

Lord hear my pray'r, Come and lis - ten to me. O

Fine

Let us pray for the church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: called to uphold the dignity of every human being, every child of this earth, beloved of you, empower your church to help in healing cycles of violence and revenge. Give us the courage to rise above our fear that nothing can be done in the face of conflict and chaos. Grant us the conviction to advocate for change and to work for the establishment of your peace.

God of love,

Hear our prayers for the church.

God of freedom, we pray for our nation and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, culture, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

God of freedom,

Hear our prayers for the world.

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: for the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.

God of justice,

Hear our prayers for the earth.

God of peace, we pray for this community: for our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

God of peace,

Hear our prayers for this community.

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: for those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayers for all who are in need.

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: for the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; for those killed in war and violence; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

God of grace,

Hear our prayers for those who have died.

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 Isaiah (9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the trampling warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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. **Amen.**