

Global Day of Action to Close Bases
February 23rd, 2025

Opening Prayer

Compassionate and merciful God of many names, Allah, Yahweh, Holy God, Wisdom-Sophia, God of All, we gather today in a world at war. We come not to debate politics but to pray for peace, not to create military strategies but to open our hearts to the Spirit of Love and Justice and be part of the force that creates peace.... We gather in the spirit of those who are making decisions, hopeful that our prayers will warm their hearts and open their minds to a moral creativity that will bring peace without bombing and [bases]. We gather in the spirit of the Divine who calls us to live in peace from generation to generation.... We gather because we must. We can't keep from singing. We can't keep from praying for an end to violence and the beginning of a new day for our children's children and us.... We gather to call forth peacemakers. (adapted from *Peace Liturgies* by Diann L. Neu, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, & Ritual, 2001)

Opening Song: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
Prayer of St. Francis adapted by Sebastian Temple

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.

**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.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
and where there's sadness ever joy.

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.

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah 2:1-5

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of our God shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of God, to the house of the God of our ancestors; that we may learn God's ways and walk in the paths of the Most High." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of God from

Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O...come, let us walk in the light of our God.

Song Response: “Down by the River Side”

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside;
gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside,
gonna study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more, no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.

Gonna close down all military bases...

Gonna shake hands around the world...

A Reading from the Holy Qu’ran

If the enemy inclines towards peace, you also incline towards peace, and trust in Allah: who hears and knows all things. *Sura 8: 61*

Song Response: “Peace, Salaam, Shalom” by Emma’s Revolution

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 6:27-36

Jesus said to his disciples: “To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as Almighty God is merciful.

Song Response: “Let There Be Peace on Earth” by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller, verse 1

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 our Parent
Family all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry 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.

Prayer of the Faithful from the Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.

After each short reading, all respond: *May we transform military bases into centers of peace..*

Christians of the United States, I must say to you what was written to the Roman Christians years ago, “Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” You have a dual citizenry. Your highest loyalty is to God, and not to the mores or the folkways, the state of the nation or any human-made institution. If any earthly institution or custom conflicts with God’s will, it is your Christian duty to oppose it. We pray...

Expediency asks the question, “Is it politic?” and vanity comes along and asks the question, “is it popular?” And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but one must do it because conscience tells them it is right. And this is where I believe we must go, as ministers of the Gospel. We pray...

A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.... Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided people. We pray...

Group Sharing

Closing Prayer from a “Peace Mass” in *Our Prayers Rise Like Incense: Liturgies for Peace*, published by Pax Christi USA

Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to encourage world leaders to replace the politics of war with the politics of peace. Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to show a love that can create a

more just and peaceful world. Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to urge each other to work tirelessly to promote gospel values. And let us say, God, hear our prayer and move us to action. Amen.

Closing Song: “We Shall Overcome”

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday!
Oh, deep in my heart
I do believe
we shall overcome someday!

We are not afraid ... today!
We shall live in peace ... some day!