

Collection of Prayers, Readings and Quotes to share at a Peace Prayer-Walk

O God, our gracious Heavenly Father, help us to...follow Thee and all of Thy creative works in this world. [Grant] that somehow we will discover that we are made to live together as brothers [and sisters]. And that it will come in this generation: the day when all [people] will recognize the [parentage] of God and the [family] of man. Amen.

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from his "*Birth of a New Nation*" speech

Prayer is a way of being in the world. Whatever you do in a state of communion, connection, love (use all of them equally) is prayer. Prayer is connection, love, communion instead of a way of judgment, analysis or critique. ~Fr. Richard Rohr

Enveloped in Your Light, may I be a beacon to those in search of Light. Sheltered in Your Peace, may I offer shelter to those in need of peace. Embraced by Your Presence, so may I be present to others. ~Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Namaste, Namaste, Namaste.
The divine in me blesses
 and honors the divine in you.
The beauty of God stands before me,
 expressing uniquely as you.
The spirit of goodness within you
 shines forth in all that you do.
Namaste, Namaste, Namaste.
The divine in me blesses
 and honors the divine in you.
 ~Mark Hayes

The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made. And the activity of making them changes both the maker and their destination. ~John Schaar

Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on people's dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was here before our arrival. ~Max Warren

Our culture, increasingly addicted to external stimulation, is desperately in need of contemplation. And so are we. If our peacemaking is to reach its fullest potential, we must take time for contemplation.

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Working for the Peace of Christ can only be authentic if we take time to recognize Christ in each other and in creation around us, time to deepen our relationship with Jesus before acting in his name.

~Nancy Small

The real hope, then, is not in something we can do, but in God who is making something good out of it in some way we cannot see. If we can do God's will, we will be helping in the process. But we will not necessarily know all about it beforehand.

~ Thomas Merton

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a coal-mouse asked a wild dove.

"Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.

"In that case I must tell you a marvelous story," the coal-mouse said. "I sat on a branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not in a giant blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch – nothing more than nothing, as you say – the branch broke off."

Having said that, the coal-mouse flew away. The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself: "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come about in the world."

New Fables Thus Spoke
"The Caribou" by Kurt Kauter

Place your foot on the surface of the earth the way an emperor would place his seal on a royal decree.

A royal decree can bring happiness or misery to people. It can shower grace on them or it can ruin their lives. Your steps can do the same. If your steps are peaceful, the world will have peace. If you can take one peaceful step, you can take two. You can take one hundred and eight peaceful steps.

~Thich Nhat Hanh

1 John 2:7-11, Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

John 13:34-35, A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

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Matthew 22:37-39, And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Mark 12:30-31, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

Galatians 5:13-14, For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

John 14:27, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Micah 6:8, He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Ephesians 2:17-19, And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

Philippians 4:8-9, Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 3:12-15, Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Prayer for an Open Heart

Precious Lord, most wonderful Savior, ever-filling Holy Spirit, please give us an open heart. Yes, Lord, we know when we open our heart how pain can come in, but we are courageous. When we are tempted to turn away or discount other's needs before ours, let those needs touch our heart. When we are besieged with the hurt of the world and we do not want to look, give us strength to see how much of

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your love the world needs from us. When our heart breaks from the terrible darkness invading our life, give us your love and wisdom so we can be strong. Precious Jesus, we need you here on earth, walking among us as you did so long ago. We have problems we cannot solve. We have hatreds running amok. We have devout saints of the faith who are being attacked by the darkness from every direction. We see our world slipping into a darkness we are helpless to stop except by praying to you. Please hear our prayers. We come to you in humility and love while making our requests in faith, asking for your divine love to act. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who is always by our side. Amen.

Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill my heart, my world, my universe.
~Universal Peace Prayer

The following prayers were taken from The Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book:

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds ease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace. Amen.

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 that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. Amen.

O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world. By your Spirit move us to affirm the dignity of all people and to work for just laws that protect the most vulnerable in society. Amen.

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth. Amen.

Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of

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our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future. Amen.

God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. IN all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect. Amen.

Holy and Almighty God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delight in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. Amen.