

Good Friday Remembrance



April 18, 2014
Beacon of Peace and Hope
North Little Rock, AR

Remembering those who have died at the hand of violence,
their loved ones, those who commit violence,
those who live in fear, and those who work for peace.

Sometimes words are not enough
to express the language of our hearts,
sometimes minds are filled
with prayers without expression.

Sometimes there are not enough
spare moments in each day,
sometimes regret is all
we have as our confession.

Sometimes faith is not enough
but in the presence of your peace,
sometimes prayer can be
a quiet conversation.

Sometimes words are not enough
to express the anguish on our hearts,
sometimes prayers are answered that remain unspoken.

http://www.snjmusontario.org/who-we-are/spirituality/prayers/1340-_____prayer-for-peace

**Remembering persons in our community
who have died at the hand of violence the past year**

Read by The Rev. Malik Saafir, _____ and
The Rev. Lisa Hlass, St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Let us remember... (*names are read*)

God, in your mercy

all respond **Hear our prayer.**

silence

Prayer for Peace

Read by The Rev. Bennie Johnson, Stop the Violence

Compassionate God, we pray for those who have been murdered on the streets of our cities. We commit to your loving care those who have died, beseeching you to receive their souls into the mercy of your love. Comfort their loved ones who mourn. Enable them to meet lonely and painful days in the strength of your love. When those of us who work for peace and reconciliation feel overwhelmed by the numbers of the suffering, uphold us in our fatigue and banish our despair. May we see with your eyes, so that all may know that they are precious. Let the love that you have made known to us lead us to create safer streets for all to walk upon. Amen.

Let us remember...

God, in your mercy,

all respond **Hear our prayer.**

Silence

Prayer for Peace from the collection of du'as *al-Hisn al-Hasin*
Read by Sophia Said

O Allah, unite our hearts
and set aright our mutual affairs,
guide us in the path of peace.

Liberate us from darkness by Your light,
save us from enormities whether open or hidden.

Bless us in our ears, eyes, hearts, spouses, and children.

Turn to us; truly you are Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.

Make us grateful for Your bounty and full of praise for it,
so that we may continue to receive it
and complete Your blessings upon us.

Let us remember...

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 58:6-9

Read by Angela Jimenez-Leon, M.D.

Student, Clinton School for Public Service

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,

the glory of God shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and God will answer;

you shall cry for help, and God will say, “Here I am.”

Let us remember...

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Silence

Scripture Reading Luke 6:27-31

Read by The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield

Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas

But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Let us remember...

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Silence

Reading from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Acceptance address for the Nobel Peace Prize, 1964

Read by Ms. Annie Abrams, Ambassador for Peace

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality...

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits.

I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up.

I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed and

nonviolent redemptive goodwill proclaimed the rule of the land. And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid. I still believe that we shall overcome.

Prayer for All

Led by Eileen Oldag, Ecumenical Buddhist Society of Little Rock

For all victims of violence, abuse and sexual harassment - for the elderly who feel imprisoned, for the youth on the streets, for children and women who are victimized, we offer lovingkindness.

We offer compassion.

For all those who commit acts of violence -- from those who speak harsh words in anger, to those who hate others who are different from themselves, to those who take the life of another, we offer lovingkindness.

We offer compassion.

For our youth who experience violence from their peers, strangers and family members in their schools, neighborhoods and homes, we offer lovingkindness.

We offer compassion.

For parents, and all those who nurture and guide our young; that they may be models of peace, teaching our young people by their good example how to resolve conflicts without harm, how to care for and respect all life, and how to reach out to others in love, we offer lovingkindness.

We offer compassion.

For each of us gathered here today, that we may learn to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God, we offer lovingkindness.

We offer compassion.

Prayer for the World written by Rabbi Harold Kushner
Read by Rabbi Barry Block, Congregation B’Nai Israel

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges,
the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over the generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents,
gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness,
So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows
of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see
all people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers
to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts

to reach upward to heaven.

Amen.

Song, Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

written by Jon Cohen

from a prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

All sing

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.
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.
Oh 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,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.