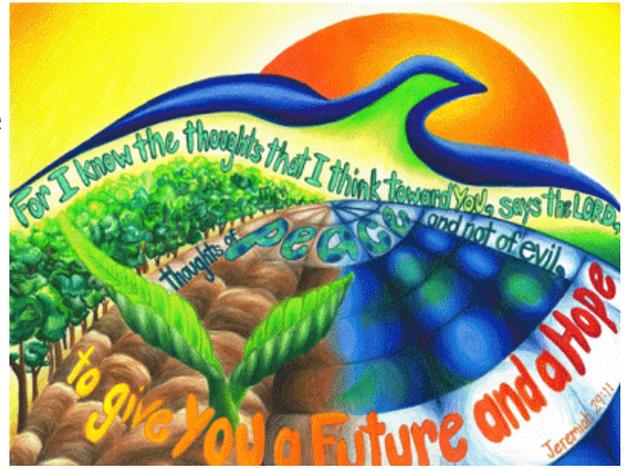


International Day of Prayer for Peace September 21, 2010

PRAAYER SERVICE

L – Leader

P – Participants



Artwork by Kay Guyer

WE GATHER

L: We gather today in the name of our Creator God
who has called us to be people of peace.

P: We gather today in the name of Jesus Christ
whose non-violent life and ministry models for us the way as disciples of peace.

L: We gather in the name of the Holy Spirit
who stirs us to faith and action to live out our calling to embody peace.

Hymn

“Peace is Flowing Like a River”

Breaking Bread #494

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S GOOD NEWS

L: On this day we join thousands of people of faith and good will around the world for this International Day of Prayer for Peace. As Christians, we are grounded in the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments. The witness of scripture reveals to us a God who desires a world where all people are reconciled to God, a world where persons from different ethnic, cultural, political and religious backgrounds come together to build a future and a hope. We also look to the great Christian writers who often invite us to ponder a future and a hope in new world that God invites us to help create. Let us open our hearts and minds to hear a few of these words anew as they speak about hope for the future of humanity in God’s world.

Readings

Reader 1: Isaiah 52: 7-9

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of those who bring glad tidings,
Announcing peace, bearing good news.
announcing salvation, and saying to Zion,
“Your God is King!”

Reader 2: "Earthquake" by Thomas Merton

Taken from *The Collected Poems of Thomas Merton*, New Directions, 1977

Go tell the earth to shake
And tell the thunder
To wake the sky
And tear the clouds apart
Tell my people to come out
And wonder

Where the old world is gone
For a new world is born
And all my people
Shall be one.

So tell the earth to shake
With marching feet
Of messengers of peace
Proclaim my law of love
To every nation
Every race.

For the old wrongs are over
The old days are gone
A new world is rising
Where my people shall be one.

So tell the earth to shake
With marching feet
Of messengers of peace
Proclaim my law of love
To every nation
Every race.

And say
The old wrongs are over
The old ways are done
There shall be no more hate
And no more war
My people shall be one.

So tell the earth to shake
With marching feet
Of messengers of peace
Proclaim my law of love
To very nation
Every race.

For the old world is ended
The old sky is torn
Apart. A new day is born
They hate no more
They do not go to war
My people shall be one.

So tell the earth to shake
With marching feet
Of messengers of peace
Proclaim my law of love
To every nation
Every race.

There shall be no more hate
And no more oppression
The old wrongs are done
My people shall be one.

Reader 3: Jeremiah 29: 11-14

**For I know well the plans I have in mind for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe!
plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me,
when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you.**

**When you look for me, you will find me.
Yes, when you seek me with all your heart,
you will find me, says the Lord, and I will change your lot;
I will gather you together from all the nations
and all the places to which I have banished you, says the Lord,
and bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you.**

Preaching

WE RESPOND AS PEACEMAKERS

Ritual of Candlelighting

L: Friends in Christ, we have heard God's word which invites us to live into a future that is marked by God's works of shalom and God's abundance given to all creation. As a sign of our willingness to continue or begin works of peace through prayer, ministries of reconciliation, seeking justice, raising up the oppressed, witnessing to our government, caring for the environment and all the ways that bring God's shalom to our world, I invite you now to light a candle for peace. Our candles are arranged in the outline of a cross, reminding us of our commitment to follow the Prince of Peace. Let the lighting of each candle represent our willingness to share the light of Christ's peace in the world.

[Each person may light a candle, creating the shape of a cross. A leader may assist or a lighting device may be used that allows each person to light a candle as she/he chooses.]

Intercessions

L: During our time of intercession, there will be a time for you to offer your own spoken or silent prayers for peace. On this day when we join the international family of God in praying for peace, let us turn to our God in faith and trust.

L: Remind us, O God, through our reading of scripture, that you have always sought to bring your people into a closer relationship to you,

P: God of peace, hear our prayer.

L: Help us to be ambassadors of reconciliation, knowing that you give us wisdom and strength for the task.

P: God of peace, hear our prayer.

L: Stir in us faith in your promise of a world where nations come together in peace,

P: God of peace, hear our prayer.

L: Help us to have courage to be messengers of peace when we witness injustice,

P: God of peace, hear our prayer.

L: Now we bring to you the prayers for peace that are in our hearts and minds this day
[pause for individual petitions to be offered; respond to each one "God of peace,
hear our prayer]

L: Gather up all the prayers of your people this day, O God, as we seek to be grounded

more deeply in the ministry and work of bringing your peace to birth in our lives and in our world. This we pray in the name of the one who is the Prince of Peace and your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Hymn “Litany of Peace”

Breaking Bread #496

Benediction

All: May God Creator bless us,
 may God Redeemer heal us,
 and may God the Holy Spirit fill us with light.

Prayer Service prepared by Connie Burkholder, Liturgy Coordinator and Heartland Center for Spirituality Team Member, Dominican Sisters of Peace, Great Bend, KS.