

Pray for Peace and Unity

OPENING REMARKS:

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to our prayer service for peace. These days, we hear a lot of news about violence. It might be happening far away or near, but it affects all of us. We would like to see the violence stopped and see everyone living in peace, unity and safety. This is why we are here today -to pray for peace.

When it is hard for us to find peace in our hearts, peace with our neighbor or peace in the world, we turn to Jesus, Prince of Peace to show us the way. Let us take the next few minutes to reflect on Jesus' message of peace. Let us think about how Jesus calls us to live this message: by praying for peace and unity, by working for peace, and becoming makers of peace, as sons and daughters of God.

CANDLE-LIGHTING FOR PEACE –

Leader: At this time, we will light the Christ candle. The Christ candle reminds us that Jesus is our Light who guides our feet in the way of peace. Jesus guides us to peace and unity through his word, and through those he calls to lead us in our walk of faith. May we have the courage and fortitude to always embrace the light of Jesus, to live in the light and to share it with all whom we meet.

Let us now join together in song to celebrate the gift of Christ's light, which guides us to become makers of peace and unity, singing _____

This Little Light of Mine -

This little light of mine– I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine– I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine– I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

All Around My Neighborhood– I'm gonna let it shine
All Around My Neighborhood– I'm gonna let it shine
All Around My Neighborhood– I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

I won't let no one put it out –no-I'm gonna let it shine
I won't let no one put it out –no-I'm gonna let it shine
I won't let no one put it out –no-I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

This little light of mine– I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine– I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine– I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

OPENING PRAYER –

Leader: Let us begin our prayer in the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer, and of the Sustainer. Amen.

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus into the world to show us the way to a true and lasting peace. Open our minds and hearts that we might hear his message of peace and unity, and allow it to take root in our lives. We ask you this in his name. Amen

Let us now be attentive, and listen to God's word.

READING:

A reading from the Letter to the Romans (12:2, 13:8,10)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

(Pause)

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God

PRAYERS -

Let us pray for the Church, that it will always be a faithful sign and instrument of Christ's peace. Hear us as we pray.

Response: Enlighten us, O God.

Let us pray for the world, that the peace of Christ might take root in every human heart, and put an end to all forms of violence, greed and division. Hear us as we pray.

Response: Enlighten us, O God.

Let us pray to make our voices strong and vibrant in the cause of justice. Hear us as we pray.

Response: Enlighten us, O God.

Let us pray for our world leaders. That the Holy Spirit might guide them to promote the peace and understanding of Christ's Gospel. Hear us as we pray.

Response: Enlighten us, O God.

Let us pray for all to hear your call of love above the noise of hectic lives. Hear us as we pray.

Response: Enlighten us, O God.

Let us pray for the courage to change that which must be changed. Hear us as we pray.

Response: Enlighten us, O God.

Let us pray for all persons who suffer due to violence, that they might find hope in people's efforts to bring Christ's peace to the world. Hear us as we pray.

Response: Enlighten us, O God.

Let us pray for ourselves, that we might become peace-makers with our families, our neighbors and communities. Hear us as we pray.

Response: Enlighten us, O God. Amen.

Leader: Let us now share the peace of Christ with one another. Greet those nearest you with the words: "The Peace of Christ be with you," responding in kind with the words: "And also with you."

EXCHANGE OF PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER

Song – We Shall Overcome

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

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand today
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
That we'll walk hand in hand today!

All things shall be new...someday!

We shall live in peace...today!

We are not afraid...today!

Closing Prayer –

Creator God, you sent your Son Jesus into the world that we might enjoy your peace always. Give us the strength to live as your children and be makers of peace and unity. Grant that all peoples might put aside their differences, and seek the unity of your Kingdom. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Go in Peace

Response: Thanks be to God

Contact Archdeacon Deborah Rucki Drake deborahdrake@optonline.net for more info.