

# A Day of Prayer for Peace, Nation, World

## For Peace

Let us pray for the peace the angels proclaimed at the birth of our Lord

*For good will to infuse all nations  
For freedom from fear of those who differ from us  
For healing from the temptation to respond to violence with violence*

Let us pray for the peace which surpasses all understanding

*For the humility to recognize that this gift comes from God alone  
For the confidence to be still in the face of our anxiety  
For the grace to reach out in love to those who wish us harm*

Let us pray to be instruments of your peace

*For a spirit of reconciliation to spread throughout all nations and people  
For the will to transcend the walls which separate us one from another  
For the wisdom to see all people as forgiven and forgiving, including ourselves*

## For the Nation

We give you thanks for the willing service of President George Bush and his administration in a dangerous and challenging time, and especially for his efforts on behalf of those living with HIV and malaria in Africa. May he, and all who served with him, find peace and renewal as they begin new lives serving in other ways.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

We pray for your blessing on President-elect Barak Obama and ask that you guide our nation as we continue to strive for life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. We ask that you give to our new president a spirit of humility, a heart for justice, a determination to do what is right, and a wise and caring mind. May he, and all in public service, succeed in doing what is good in your eyes.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

We pray for those families with loved ones serving our nation overseas, for those in dangerous places, for those protecting our way of life. We pray for those who serve in our city, state and national governments, who make sure our children are taught, our roads repaired, our streets safe, and our trash hauled away. Teach us to honor them as servants devoted to the common good and help us to follow their example.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

We pray for those who have lost jobs, whose homes have been repossessed, whose savings are depleted and who feel without hope. We pray also for those who never had such resources, and who continue to cry out to you in poverty, sickness, and pain. We pray for those without health care, and those who live in fear as they harvest our food, wash our clothes and make our lives easier. May they and all who suffer hardship in our land know the comfort of your love and the justice of your kingdom.

*Hear our prayer O Lord.*

*Give us such an awareness of your justice, O God, that in reflecting your Light to all who know us, they may come to know you and the One whom you sent, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**For the World** (based upon the eight Millennium Development Goals)

**Creator God**, we pray for the poor, the destitute, those who hunger and have no homes. Give us the knowledge to be ever-creative in agricultural and nutritional productivity, ever-mindful of our call to be stewards of the environment, and ever-vigilant and courageous in confronting parsimony, hoarding, and greed.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, and give us generous and charitable hearts. (MDG 1)*

**God of truth and knowledge**, remind us daily by your Holy Spirit that the human mind is a gift needing nurture and education. Help us to use our material resources rightly to provide primary education to children worldwide and the love of learning to adults everywhere. Give us determination in every village, town, and community to eliminate corridors of ignorance and the sloth of condoning a “minimally adequate” education.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, that we might understand that learning and knowledge are the keys to survival. (MDG2)*

**God of life and wholeness**, send forth witnesses to Christ’s love who nurture gender equality and the gifts and talents that are inherent in all women and men. Give us the grace to see that you empower the whole human race to contribute to the enhancement of all human life.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, and open our hearts to those who are denied the full expression of their humanity. (MDG 3)*

**God of saving and physical health**, we pray for the reduction of child mortality in the world—for the innocent who die because of human ignorance and superstition, lack of proper medical care, clean water and good nutrition, and for those who are the victims of infanticide. Give us the compassion to supply materials protective of health and to raise up, O Lord, the saving health of Christ’s love that generates volunteers and educators.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, and inspire and move us ever to make a difference in our world. (MDG 4, 5)*

**God, who gives the gift of the freedom of the natural order to take its course and of humanity to make its choices**, hear our prayer for those who are sick, for those who waste away with diseases, curable and incurable, and for those who die. Help us, O Lord, knowing that your will is for health and wholeness, to share what we know and what we have to foster healing for all. Give us the resources to pursue research without greed and let your Holy Spirit guide us to a place of true charity where health care and well being are not for the wealthy alone.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, that we might raise our voices to extend medical resources to all in need. (MDG 6)*

**Glorious God, who has given us the beauty, wonder, and awesome mystery of the universe**, stir up in us an urgent sense of responsibility to care for this fragile earth, our island home. Help us to recognize your creation as a gift, an intricately balanced, ever evolving biosphere in whose life we play a crucial role. Give us the wisdom and courage to pursue a global partnership of human beings, attentive to your prophetic call to love, bring justice, and serve truth, that we may save the planet and embrace its preservation for future generations among the ways we minister to one another in Christ’s name.

*Hear our prayer, O God, as we endeavor to honor the gifts of reason, memory, and skill in relating to one another and to your Creation all around us. (MDG 7, 8)*

*The Celebrant concludes:*

Hear the fervent prayers of your people, O God of Peace. Quiet our hearts and give us your peace which passes all understanding and the vision, courage, and will to work to transform the world. For your countless blessings, we, your humble servants, give thanks to You, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now, and in all the ages to come. *Amen*