

Peace Liturgy

Leaders notes

This liturgy is designed for a teacher, a class, a youth group or any group of people to reflect on and pray for peace. It can be used on or around International Day of Peace (21st September). Please adapt and/or use them in a way that best suits your purposes. If you do edit this presentation, please ensure content and photos from this resource remain with the appropriate credit to Caritas Australia and the photographers.

Theme: Peace

Materials Required: Scripts for each reader, [Peace Liturgy](#) PowerPoint

Desired outcomes: For participants to reflect on what peace-building means and Jesus' teaching about peace.

Time allocation: 20 minutes



[Slide 2] Leader: We gather to pray for peace in our world. We begin in the name of the +Father, and of the +Son, and of the +Holy Spirit. Amen

We see pictures of conflict almost every day on the TV, the internet and in newspapers. We have all watched recent fighting in Syria and Colombia and in many other places around the world. We remember the people who have lost their lives or been injured in conflicts, and the families that have been left without food, water, shelter or medical care. We remember families affected by violence in their communities – violence from gangs, crime and conflict, which stops children from being able to go to school or from going out to play.

Or, on International Day of Peace: Here in our community, today, with people all over the world, we are gathering together to celebrate the International World day of Peace. In order to do this, we gather around the person who brings together all the nations of the world, as one family – Jesus, the Light of the world. Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. A peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you."



[Slide 3] Reader 1:

We gather here together *[on International Day of Peace]* to pray for peace around the world. We remember all of the people who have died recently in conflicts around the world.

Suggested hymns:

Christ be our light (Bernadette Farrell, As One Voice Vol.2)

We are Called (David Haas, As One Voice Vol.2)



[Slide 4] Reader 2: A reading from the Gospel according to John 14: 27-31

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

Or you may like to share the following quotes from key Catholic figures.



[Slide 5] "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Mother Teresa



[Slide 6] "Darkness can only be scatter by light, hatred can only be conquered by love." Pope John Paul II



[Slide 7] "We plant seeds that will flower as results in our lives, so best to remove the weeds of anger, avarice, envy and doubt, that peace and abundance may manifest for all." Dorothy Day



[Slide 8] "Peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected...Never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake. War begets war, violence begets violence." Pope Francis

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[Slide 9] Leader: Let us now take a moment to hear about how Caritas Sri Lanka, with the support of Caritas Australia, are working to build peace in communities across Sri Lanka where there has been ongoing violence and displacement of people.



[Slide 10] Reader 3: This is Nirangini. Like many people in the world, Nirangini was forced to leave her home because of war. "We were displaced 11 times before we came back to Veravil in the Kilinochchi district," says Nirangini. "My mother and son were with me, but the other members of my family were separated as the war escalated. One of our brothers went missing." When they returned their house was gone and they had almost no food or money.



[Slide 11] Caritas was there to help them through a special Caritas program. Nirangini carried bricks, sand and water to help build her home. She began a vegetable garden and now has a small chicken business. Nirangini and her family now have nutritious food to eat and she has enough money to send her son to school. "When everybody was displaced most people took their clothes with them but my son took only his books. He's now 11 and loves school" she said. Best of all, Nirangini, her little boy and her mother have a safe and secure home of their own – a home in which to live and grow.



[Slide 12] Reader 4: All people, everywhere in the world, deserve to have peace in their lives. As followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we are called to be peacemakers, at home, in school, wherever we are. There is a famous prayer, written by St Teresa of Avila, which reminds us that Jesus uses us to spread his gospel of peace, in the way we live our everyday lives. Let us listen to the prayer.



[Slide 13] Reader 5:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes - through which his love looks out to the world.
Yours are the feet - with which he goes about doing good.
Yours are the hands - with which he blesses people now.

Leader: In this quiet moment we pause to ask ourselves these questions:



[Slide 14] Leader:
How can my eyes,
the way I look at
people, bring
peace and love?



[Slide 15] Leader:
How can I use my
feet to do good
and bring
happiness and
peace?

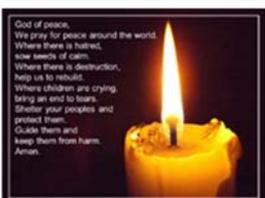


[Slide 16] Leader:
How can I use my
hands to bless
and help and bring
peace to those
around me?



[Slide 17] Reader 6: (re-read the prayer)

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes - through which his love looks out to the world.
Yours are the feet - with which he goes about doing good.
Yours are the hands - with which he blesses people now.



[Slide 18] Leader: Let us now pray for our sisters and brothers all over the world who are affected by violence and conflict.

God of peace, We pray for peace around the world.
Where there is hatred, sow seeds of calm. Where there is destruction, help us to rebuild.
Where children are crying, bring an end to tears. Shelter your peoples and protect them.
Where children are crying, bring an end to tears. Shelter your peoples and protect them.
Guide them and keep them from harm.
Amen.

Leader: In the name of the +Father, and of the +Son, and of the +Holy Spirit. Amen

Leader: We finish our celebration with a hymn.

Suggested hymns:

No Hands but Ours (Amanda McKenna, As One Voice The Next Generation)

City of God (Dan Schutte, As One Voice Vol.1)

Acknowledgements: Adapted with permission from a resource by CAFOD



End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity