



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

21 SEPTEMBER 2017

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

TOGETHER  
— FOR —  
PEACE

RESPECT, SAFETY & DIGNITY FOR ALL

— [together.un.org](http://together.un.org) | [#jointogether](https://twitter.com/jointogether) —

The International Day of Peace is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace, and to cooperate with the United Nations in establishing a global ceasefire.

“Twenty-four hours: to give relief workers a safe interlude for the provision of vital services; to offer mediators a building block towards a wider truce; to allow all those engaged in conflict to reconsider the wisdom of further violence.”

- Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General

## **OPENING PRAYER**

We gather here as a community to celebrate the International Day of Peace. We are reminded that we are all part of one global human family living together in a world that remains broken and divided. We join together in hope that the universal desire for peace may be realized.

God, help us to recognize that you call each one of us to commit ourselves to the effort of peace in the world.

All: *Amen.*

## **INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Spirit of wisdom,

All: *guide us.*

Spirit of openness,

All: *Transform us.*

Spirit of truth,

All: *Lead us.*

## **WATER RITE**

We bring the world before us. Let this water be a symbol both of our common baptism with all Christians and the source of life shared with all peoples everywhere.

- Let this salt be a symbol of the sorrow and the tears in our broken world.

- Let this salt be a symbol of the sorrow and the tears in Iraq.

...

But let us not forget that salt and water can also help cleanse and heal. Let us bless ourselves with this salt water as a sign of our commitment to healing divisions between people, through our prayers, words and actions.

## **EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

Let us recall in the silence of our hearts our role in causing division and brokenness:

- Do I recognize the dignity of all people?

- Do I allow God to speak to me through the lives of the impoverished and marginalized?
- Do I strive to remove barriers between people?
- Do I play my part in creating a fair and just global society?
- Do I challenge unjust systems and structures?
- Do I use the earth's resources wisely?
- Do I allow society to degrade and dehumanize people?
- Do I speak out when others are fearful, oppressed or treated unfairly?
- Do I work to influence my country's foreign and domestic policies?
- Do I work for peace not only in my community or country, but throughout the world?

## **PERIOD OF SILENCE**

## **ACT OF REPENTANCE**

O God, forgive us. We have not always acted for peace. We have caused division and brokenness. God, we ask for your forgiveness and healing. Help us live out our calling as peacemakers. Give us courage and strength to change.

All: *Amen.*

## **SIGN OF PEACE**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

O God, on this day, the International Day of Peace, we remember that war and violence continue to maim, kill and destroy. Hundreds of thousands of human beings look at their sisters and brothers over the barrels of guns, cannons and missiles. Help us to hear your voice that counsels forgiveness, compassion, patience and dialogue. Help us to "thirst after ever greater justice," so that we might contribute to a peaceful world. Help us to act on behalf of peace, not only today, but all of the days of our life.

All: *Amen.*

## **SONG OF PEACE**

1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions, A song of  
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean, And sun-light

peace, for lands a - far and mine; This is my home, the  
 beams on clo-ver leaf and pine, But oth-er lands have

coun-try where my heart is, Here are my hopes, my  
 sun-light too, and clo-ver, And skies are ev - ery

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth-er hearts in oth-er lands are  
 where as blue as mine. O hea-ven my song, thou God of all the

beat-ing With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 na-tions, A song of peace for their land and for mine.

