



Premier's Action Committee  
on Family Violence Prevention

## Worship Resources

*to help prepare a service to recognize family violence prevention in your faith community.*

### *Opening Sentence:*

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, Peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." As we gather to worship may the peace Christ offers be with us and may we find ways to share that peace with God's children everywhere. Let us worship God.

### *Scripture Passages*

- 1) Scriptures that remind us that anger and violence are not part of God's plan for us
  - a. Proverbs 29:11
  - b. Proverbs 22:24-25
  - c. Proverbs 29:22
  - d. James 1:19-20
  - e. Proverbs 27:4
  - f. Proverbs 25:28
  - g. Proverbs 10:11
  - h. Galatians 5:19,21
  - i. Psalm 11:5
  - j. Proverbs 3:31
  - k. Ezekiel 45:9
  
- 2) Scriptures that remind us that Love is what God requires of us. This love does not include violence or abuse
  - a. ! Corinthians 13:4-7
  - b. Ephesians 5:25, 28
  - c. Colossians 3:19
  - d. Matthew 22:36-40
  - e. Jhn 15:12
  
- 3) Scriptures that speak of God healing those hurts in our lives and taking care of us
  - a. Psalm 147:3
  - b. 1 Peter 5:7
  - c. Matthew 11:28
  - d. Psalm 46:1
  - e. Isaiah 40:29
  - f. Luke 12:7

*provided by*

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## **Litany for Peace**

One: From words and deeds that provoke discord, prejudice and hatred,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: From suspicions and fears that stand in the way of reconciliation,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: From believing and speaking lies about other peoples or nations,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: From cruel indifference to the cries of the hungry and homeless,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: From all that prevents us from fulfilling your promise of peace,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: **Deliver us from** our brokenness, we pray, O God,

All: and by your grace and healing presence **deliver us to You...**

One: To still waters and green pastures,

All: O Creating God, deliver us.

One: To the freedom and forgiveness we find in you,

All: O Risen Christ, deliver us.

One: To the tough task of loving our enemies,

All: O Jesus, deliver us.

One: To joyful service in your name,

All: O Servant of All, deliver us.

One: To the promise of a new heaven and a new earth,

To the wholeness of justice,

To the power of your peace,

All: O Holy Spirit, deliver us now and in the days to come.

Gracious Father, your love knows no limits. Fill our hearts with your compassion, open our eyes to your presence in the world, enlarge our minds to understand your will. Take our hands and minister through them. Speak through our words and direct our feet in the path of peace, that Christ may be revealed in us and that the world may believe. Amen.

O Lord,  
you love justice and you establish peace on earth.  
We bring before you the disunity of today's world;  
the absurd violence, and the many wars,  
which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world;  
human greed and injustice,  
which breed hatred and strife.  
Send your spirit and renew the face of the earth;  
teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family;  
strengthen the will of all those  
who fight for justice and for peace,  
and give us that peace which the world cannot give.

All: Amen.

*Source: Worship in the Ecumenical Centre of the World Council of Churches*

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## **A Creed of Hope**

I believe in God.  
The God of all creeds, with all their truths.  
But, above all, in the God  
that rises from the dead words  
to become part of life.  
I believe in God that accompanies me along  
every step of my path on this earth,  
many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes,  
other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me,  
and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.  
I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ,  
the God who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes,  
the God who walked in my ways, and knows of lights and shadows.  
The God who ate and starved,  
who had a home and suffered loneliness,  
who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved and hated.  
The God who went to parties and funerals,

the God who laughed and cried.  
I believe in the God who is attentive today, who looks at the world  
and sees the hatred that segregates, divides,  
sets people aside, hurts and kills,  
who sees the bullets piercing the flesh,  
and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth,  
who sees the hand that dips into another's pocket,  
stealing what somebody needs to eat,  
who sees the judge that favours the highest bidder,  
the truth and justice of hypocrites,  
who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish,  
the toxic substances destroying the earth  
and piercing the sky  
who sees the future mortgaged and  
man's debt growing.  
I believe in God who sees all this ...  
and keeps on crying.

But I also believe in God  
who sees a mother giving birth - a life born from pain,  
who sees two children playing - a seed growing,  
who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning,  
who sees three crazy women claimouring for justice - an illusion that doesn't die  
who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.  
I believe in God who sees all this ...  
and laughs,  
because,  
in spite of it all,  
there is hope.

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*A Collection of Prayers for Peace - 2005*

*The following collection of prayers for the International Day of Prayer for Peace comes from a variety of denominations and countries. We encourage you to use them freely, taking note of the copyright information when given. Please cite the World Council of Churches if no other source is provided.*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You told the women of Jerusalem not to weep for you  
but to weep for themselves.  
Be with women who suffer violence in their homes,  
As they weep for their sons caught up in the violence.

Be with the women who live in domestic violence,  
Who have learnt not to weep for their own pains,  
Who have suffered so long they are numb.  
Strengthen your Church in its care and support  
Of all who are in pain.  
Help us to be sensitive and caring  
For you are the Lord who suffers and serves.

(Papua New Guinea)

O Lord, you have said to us 'Peace I leave with you.'  
This peace that you give is not that of this world:  
it is not the peace of order, when order oppresses;  
it is not the peace of silence, when silence is born of suppression;  
it is not the peace of resignation, when such resignation is unworthy.  
Your peace is love for all people,  
is justice for all people,  
is truth for all people,  
the truth that liberates and stimulates growth.  
Lord, it is this peace we believe in because of your promise.  
Grant us peace, so we might give this peace to others.

(Italy: The Waldensian Community)

God, you are the God of life.  
Transform us in the depths of our hearts  
into people, through whom your peace  
is carried out into your world.  
Send your Spirit into the hearts of those  
who are captured in the net of violence  
be it as perpetrators or as victims  
and let us never give up the search  
for the chance to talk to them.

(Croatia)

O Lord Jesus Christ, whose perfect life met death by  
violence and was not extinguished; so enter the hearts and  
minds of those affected by violence, that frailty may give  
way to your strength, loss to your pain, bitterness to your  
total and victorious love; for your name's sake. Amen.

(United Kingdom: a prayer used at the place where a young woman was murdered)

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*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2004 - Day 3*

O Lord our God, in Jesus Christ  
your only Word  
you have put hatred to death.  
Through his death, in the silence of the cross  
you have reconciled human beings to one other and to yourself.  
transform our words of violence into words of peace  
and give us the grace not to refuse the cost of this universal reconciliation. Amen.

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2004 - Day 8*

Triune God, you have revealed to us that the works of darkness and injustice have to be conquered by the dying and rising of Jesus. Jesus' offer of peace encourages us to imitate him in breaking the bonds of inhumanity, of injustice, of hatred, of disunity. Strengthen us with your Spirit of peace that we may always hate evil, love good and establish justice. Do not allow us to cry "Peace" when we are comfortable but declare war against those who go hungry and live in precarious situations.  
Enable us to find your peace in humble and courageous service of the least of these who are members of your family. Amen.

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*Blessings*

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us;  
May the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us;  
And may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us;  
from now into eternity.  
Amen.

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*A Collection of Prayers for Peace - 2006*

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**Prayer for when there are disagreements**

Lord, do not let disagreements disturb my hope.  
Teach me to practice forgiveness day by day.  
Give me the patience of what is sure.  
Soften the sharp edges of malice.

Drown my bitterness in the depths of the sea.  
Do not let anger destroy the power of gentleness.  
Clothe me with the moderation that is resistant to indifference,  
to covetousness and to hate.  
Place your seal of love upon me.  
May devotion to you order my paths.  
May the joy of your grace fill me with strength.  
Amen

### **Prayer for the rights of people**

Lord God, we come before you with petitions in our hearts. We seek the balm that only you can give.  
We pray that all children may attain fullness of life and grow in accord with your will. We pray especially for children who are ill, injured, hungry, or who live in problem households, for those who have to work, for those who suffer any sort of exploitation or sexual abuse, that they may know your love and healing.  
We pray for families, especially those who know the pain of abuse, divorce, drugs, disease, rebelliousness, violence and lack of resources, that they may find healing.  
We pray for communities divided by racism, violence, selfishness or ideology, that they may find a way to work together to improve the lives of children, families and all their inhabitants.  
We pray for national and civic leaders, leaders of businesses, congregations, schools, hospitals and hostels for the homeless; leaders of local and international child protection organizations, that all such leaders may respect diversity, while at the same time promoting the best interests and welfare of children, families and communities.  
We pray for the victims of war, racial conflict and poverty. Hear our cry for justice, hope and freedom for all who are oppressed, exploited, persecuted, rejected and discriminated.  
We pray for ourselves with our unfulfilled dreams, downcast spirits, wounded hearts and dashed hopes.  
Lord, touch our congregations and our lives with the tenderness that only you can give, that we may be healed and renewed to do the work to which we have been called.  
Amen

### **Remembering women**

Spirit of life, we remember today women, famous women and nameless women, who in the course of history have used the strength and gifts that you have given them to change the world. We call upon these our ancestors in the faith to help us to discover in ourselves this strength and the way to use it to bring in the Kingdom of justice and peace.

We remember Sarah, who with Abraham answered God's call to leave their native land and put their trust in a covenant with the Lord. We pray for her strength of faith.  
We remember Esther and Deborah, who by their personal deeds of courage saved their nation. We pray for their strength and courage in acting for the good of many.

We remember Mary Magdalene and the other women who followed Jesus, who were not believed when they told of his resurrection. We pray for their strength of belief when confronted with scepticism.

We remember Phoebe and Priscilla and the other women who were leaders in the early church. We pray for their strength to spread the Gospel and to inspire other communities of believers.

We remember the abbesses of the Middle Ages who kept faith and knowledge alive. We pray for their strength of leadership.

We remember Teresa of Ávila and Catherine of Siena, who challenged the corruption of the church at the Renaissance. We pray for their strength of intelligence and assertiveness. We remember our mothers and grandmothers, whose lives have shaped ours. We pray for the particular strength that they sought to pass on to us.

We pray for women who are victims of domestic violence. May they find strength to overcome fear and seek solutions.

We pray for women facing a life of poverty and malnutrition. May they find strength to hope and work together for a better life.

We pray for women who have led the way in making a breakthrough for women. May they find strength to persevere and open up new opportunities for all women.

We pray for our daughters and granddaughters. May they find strength to discover a life that is distinctively theirs.

*< Here you may add the names of women whom you wish to remember or for whom you wish to pray.>*

All:

We have celebrated the strength of many women, past and present. Now we come to celebrate ourselves. In each one of us there is the same life, the same light, the same love. In each one of us there are the seeds of strength and glory. Our bodies can lovingly touch, our hearts can heal, our minds can discern faith, truth and justice. Spirit of life, be with us in our quest. Amen.