

# ***VIBRANT VOICES for PEACE***

January 30, 2025



## **Call To Worship**

**Leader:** May the God of Justice and Peace be with all of us.

**Leader:** God of mercy and compassion, send your Spirit to  
open my eyes that I may see the needs of others,  
open my ears that I may hear their cries,  
open my heart that they may not be without support.  
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,  
and use me to bring them to those places  
that I may, this coming day, be able to do some work of peace for you.  
Through Christ, our Lord, we pray.

**All:** Amen.

## **First Reading**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

## **Second Reading “Loving Your Enemies”**

Excerpt from Strength to Love (Fortress Press, 2010), 44, 45 - 46.

by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)

## **Words of Reflection**

## **Silent Reflection**

### **Pope Francis’ Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2025**

#### **Side 1:**

May 2025 be a year in which peace flourishes!

A true and lasting peace that goes beyond quibbling over the details of agreements and human compromises.

#### **Side 2:**

May we seek the true peace that is granted by God to hearts disarmed:

hearts not set on calculating what is mine and what is yours;

hearts that turn selfishness into readiness to reach out to others;

**Side 1:**

hearts that see themselves as indebted to God and thus prepared to forgive the debts that oppress others;

hearts that replace anxiety about the future with the hope that every individual can be a resource for the building of a better world.

**Side 2:**

Disarming hearts is a job for everyone, great and small, rich and poor alike.

At times, something quite simple will do, such as “a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed.

**Side 1:**

With such gestures, we progress towards the goal of peace.

We will arrive all the more quickly if, in the course of journeying alongside our brothers and sisters, we discover that we have changed from the time we first set out.

**Side 2:**

Peace does not only come with the end of wars but with the dawn of a new world, a world in which we realize that we are different, closer and more fraternal than we ever thought possible.

**Closing Prayer****Leader:**

Let us pray:

Grant us, O God, a vision of your world as your love would have it;  
a world where the weak are protected, and none grow hungry or poor;  
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;  
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;  
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.  
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it,  
through Christ, our Lord.

**All:**

Amen.

**Blessing****Leader:**

May the God who heals, touch us and our broken world, and bless us.

**All:**

Thanks be to God.

