

# ***VIBRANT VOICES for PEACE***

October 17, 2024



## **Call To Worship**

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

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 thee.  
Through Christ, our Lord, we pray.

**All:** Amen.

## **First Reading**

***“Provincial Council Calls for a Ceasefire in the Holy Land”***

Excerpt from a Statement from the Provincial Council of the  
Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
published in "Franciscan Insights" e-Newsletter on October 10, 2024

## **PSALM 46**

**Our Psalm Response is:**

***God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.***

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. ***R/.***

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns. ***R/.***

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. ***R/.***

Come, behold the works of the Lord; He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. **R/.**

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.”  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. **R/.**

## Second Reading

Matthew 15: 21-28

## Words of Reflection

## Silent Reflection

### A Litany for Peace in Troubled Times

**Pat:** In these days of trouble, fear and sorrow, **All: have mercy on us.**  
In our despair at the violence that seems to fill the world, **have mercy on us.**  
In the pain of lost life and shattered hopes, **have mercy on us.**  
In our grieving for those who have died, **have mercy on us.**  
In our compassion for all who are bereaved, **have mercy on us.**

**Patty:** From the history of violence that corrupts every society and our own,  
**All: O Lord, deliver us.**  
From the greed and injustice that divide the world into rich and poor,  
**O Lord, deliver us.**  
From the urge for revenge that adds to the cycle of violence,  
**O Lord, deliver us.**  
From the fear that grows into hatred for people who are different,  
**O Lord, deliver us.**  
From being too quick to attribute blame and demand retribution,  
**O Lord, deliver us.**

**Pat:** For those who plan and carry out acts of violence,  
**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
For all who seek justice and ensure the rule of law,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**  
For the victims of war and terrorism everywhere on earth,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**  
For all who live in fear, and for refugees from violent regimes,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**  
For courage to resist demonizing and dehumanizing others,  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Patty:** For wisdom in choosing the paths of peace,  
**All:** **we pray to you, O God.**  
For respect in conversation with people of other faiths,  
**we pray to you, O God.**  
For rescue workers and medical teams treating those injured in conflict zones, **we pray to you, O God.**  
For the leaders of all the nations, looking for ways to work together beyond fear and suspicion, **we pray to you, O God.**  
For people of goodwill, responding generously to the needs of suffering communities, **we pray to you, O God.**  
For Christ to lead us into the paths of peace, writing the law of love on our hearts, **we pray to you, O God.**  
God of all peace, have mercy on our broken and divided world, and on your people who cry out to you for healing, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **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.

*Please join Women of Hope on Tuesday, December 3, at 12:35 p.m. as we continue to pray for peace.*

