

VIBRANT VOICES for PEACE

December 3, 2024



Call To Worship

Leader:

Let us stand and pray:

Jesus, Coming Savior, as we anticipate the celebration of your birth, remind us that you are already present in all the events and relationships that constitute our lives.

Give us discerning hearts that we may know you wherever and whenever you come to meet us.

Let your presence shout out from all creation so that every event, every encounter, reminds us that you are here.

Conscious of your abiding love, may we live in compassion and forgiveness, charity and kindness, and peace.

We ask this in hope.

All:

Amen.

First Reading

An Excerpt from Mary of Nazareth, Prophet of Peace
by John Dear, Ave Maria Press, Inc., 2003

We are called to proclaim the truth!

It is not true that this world and its people are intended to live with violence and war.

But this is true: I have come that they may have life in abundance.

Response: God of peace, teach us your ways.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, war and violence as the norm.

But this is true: the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, the poor hear the good news.

Response: God of peace, teach us your ways.

It is not true that violence and hatred have the last word, and that war and destruction will stay forever.

But this is true: death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning or crying or pain anymore.

Response: God of peace, teach us your ways.

It is not true that our dreams of human dignity, of mercy and compassion, of a world of peace for our children are impossible in our day.

But this is true: it is time for us to wake from sleep, to proclaim God's way of peace and nonviolence. For the night is far gone and the day is at hand.

Response: God of peace, teach us your ways.

Words of Reflection

Silent Reflection

Intercessions **Our Response is: *Christ, our hope, hear our prayer.***

God of peace, help us give up all that separates us from You and from our brothers and sisters... ***Response: Christ, our hope, hear our prayer.***

God of peace, teach all nations ways to embrace peace with justice...
Response: Christ, our hope, hear our prayer.

God of peace, may those who profit from the business of war convert their efforts to the business of peace... ***Response: Christ, our hope, hear our prayer.***

God of peace, enlighten each of us here to the ways that we can be peacemakers...
Response: Christ, our hope, hear our prayer.

Let us pray: God of peace, you know the secrets of our hearts.
Teach us to love one another, to forgive each other and ourselves,
to bear wrongs patiently, and to always embrace the ways of peace.
Amen.

Closing Prayer **“Small Kindnesses” by Danusha Lameris**

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle,
people pull in their legs to let you by.
Or how strangers still say 'bless you' when someone sneezes,
a leftover from the bubonic plague. 'Don't die', we are saying.

And sometimes when you spill lemons from your grocery bag,
someone else will help you pick them up.
Mostly we don't want to harm each other.

We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it.
To smile at them and for them to smile back.
For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver in the red pick- up truck to let us pass.

We have so little of each other, now.
So far from tribe and fire.
Only these brief moments of exchange.

What if they are the true dwelling of the holy,
these fleeting temples we make together when we say,
'Here have my seat,'
'Go ahead—you first,'
'I like your hat.'

Closing Blessing

Leader: May Christ Jesus, who became human and shared our earthly life,
strengthen our faith.

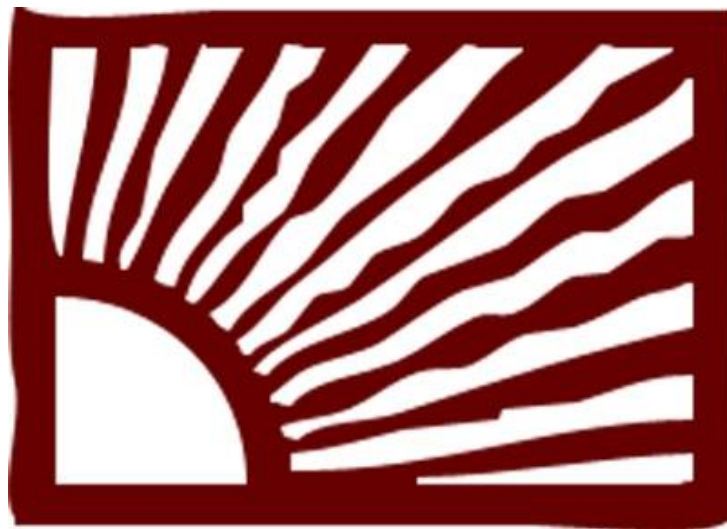
All: Amen.

Leader: May Christ Jesus, who remains among us hidden in our neighbors,
enliven our charity.

All: Amen.

Leaders: May Christ Jesus who will greet us at death and at the end of time,
grant us mercy.

All: Amen.



Vibrant Voices for Peace Prayer Services are sponsored by
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