

A Collection of World Prayers

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Litany of Thanksgiving on World Day of Prayer flowing from Romans 12: 4-13

Leader: We thank you, God,
for the unity and wholeness of the human body.
We especially thank you for all our senses
whereby we come to know the world and one another.
Our hearts are full of gratitude for the gift of life.

**All: We give thanks for the gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us.**

Leader: We thank you, God,
for the gift of Jesus, the Christ, who lived among us,
who suffered and died and who rose again
that we would have life more abundantly.
We are grateful for the empowering message
of the Gospel that we are to love one another.
May the unity that we have in Christ
be experienced in every aspect
of our lives, our families, our clans,
our tribes and communities,
our country and the world.

All: We give thanks for a genuine, Christ-like love.

Leader: We thank you, God for directing our lives.
We are grateful for those who hold fast to what is good:
those who advocate justice for the least,
oppressed and marginalized in our society,
those who speak truth to power,
those who share generously;
those who are compassionate to all.
By the power of your Spirit,
enable us to make needed changes in our lives,
with hope, now and forever.

**All: We give thanks for the gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us.**

Leader: We thank you, God, for those who lead with diligence,
mindful of the good of all, not their own special interests.
We thank you for giving us opportunities
to use our leadership qualities.
We remember our leaders--
the able and dedicated men and women
in the government, in the private sector, and in NGO groups.
God, we thank you also
for changing the hearts of men
to recognize and value the leadership of women in Papua New Guinea.
The women of Papua New Guinea
thank all who are educators
for empowering them with the proper education
to realize their leadership ability.

All: We give thanks for a genuine, Christ-like love.

Closing Prayer

O God, we give you thanks for the women of Papua New Guinea,
who pray today that they may grow in justice, peace and power,
to be a blessing for their people.
We give thanks as well for those
who plan and support the World Day of Prayer,
which gives voice to the prayers of women
and allows us all to pray in solidarity
with sisters all around the world.
Use this prayer and this movement
to give a voice for justice, peace, power and blessing
to all of your children;
In Christ-like love we pray, Amen.

Women of Papua New Guinea

Prayers from Tanzania

1.
Our Lord and God Almighty, we praise you,
for you created us all and made us
into many different tribes and nations,
that we may befriend one another
and that we may not despise each other.
Open our hearts, we pray,
so that we may respond to the needs
of all our brothers and sisters.
Oh Lord Jesus, bless all our lands
with more lasting peace and fraternal understanding.

Above all, heavenly Father,
touch the hearts of our political leaders
and all those in power.
We pray that they may exercise power gently,
that they may humbly seek a disinterested dialogue
that will bring about understanding,
leading us all to a place where all nations and all people
live together in peace and harmony.
Where there is bitterness teach us forgiveness and reconciliation,
replace hatred with love and indifference with care.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

2.

Oh Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles
“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you”.
Give us courage to challenge the perpetrators of violence
and to change their behavior. Help us devote our whole life,
thought and energy to the task of making peace.
We pray for a new Africa,
where fear, violent thoughts or action shall no longer exist,
and where selfishness will not lead people to commit injustice to others.
As for the peoples of every African tongue and race,
may your kingdom come;
your kingdom of justice, peace and love.
May peace prevail in Africa.
May peace prevail on earth.
Amen.

3.

Lord, rightful advocate of peace.
God of power and mercy, please destroy war,
which results in a spiral of human suffering
and the destruction of your bountiful creation.
Eliminate violence from our midst and wipe away the tears.
Hear the cries of many African people
afflicted through the death of their loved ones.
Hear the sighs of those who live in constant fear,
Hear the cries of many African mothers
who suffer with hunger pains but still break their backs
to feed their families,
Hear the cries of those who have been displaced
and are facing hunger and scarcity.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior we pray.
Amen

By Aneth Lwakatare

Prayer from Jamaica

Keep your church free, that it may be the channel
through which justice and peace,
integrity and wholeness,
harmony and goodwill
may flow to the dispossessed and the desperate,
that your Kingdom may come in all its fulfillment
of life and health and peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

source unknown

Prayer from the Caribbean

God of peace and possibility, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier:
We approach you to ask once again for your mercy, forgiveness and a fresh start.
We ask you to help us give peace a chance, in this world.
We want to give peace a chance, yet we have already missed so many opportunities.
We have sabotaged so many initiatives; instead of overcoming evil with good,
we have stood by while good was overpowered.
Forgive us, Lord.

Dona nobis pacem: Give us peace, we pray.

Just as we claim your forgiveness, we also claim this moment in the name of peace.
We accept anew our responsibility as peacemakers and creators of justice.
We give thanks for the Decade to Overcome Violence, for its work in raising our awareness and
our yearning for peace. And yet, we admit that there is much more required if we are truly to
give peace a chance.

Dona nobis pacem: Give us peace, we pray.

By the moving of your Spirit, commit our hearts and minds to peace, and help us dedicate our
lives to becoming the starting-points of peace. "Let this be the moment, now."
Help us cooperate with you, giving peace a chance, creating a world where peace may be our
ethos and our essence.

Give us peace, we pray. Grant us wisdom and courage to seize the initiative: wisdom to discern
the things that make for peace, and courage to be faithful and obedient to you.

Dona nobis pacem: Give us peace, we pray.

God of peace and possibility, make us instruments of your peace
at the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation and in all places
so that we may fulfill your will, and so that we may give peace a chance.
In the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
Amen.

Prayer from the Caribbean

Atua of Peace (God of Peace)

Atua of peace, allow us to drink from the tanoa* of Your peace,
Right the course of our canoes to overcome the currents of violence, hatred, war, abuse,
Give us peace of being at rest, so that peace prevails over any wind that gusts through our
islands,
Tattoo in our hearts Your righteousness and purity,
Through all cultures and walks of life, we pray as instruments of Peace and as the people of
Pasifika

M. Aunoa, Am. Samoa

*tanoa is a bowl used in western Polynesia and Fiji for kava

Atua of Faith (God of Faith)

Lord of the Ocean
Grant us the courage and faith
To face the tidal waves of our time
Lord of the Reefs,
Grant us the courage and faith,
To face the erosions of our time
Lord of the Islands
Grant us the courage and faith
To face the cyclones of our time

Atua of Grace (God of Grace)

Precious God,
Grant us Your strength
Show us Your divine solace
Send us Your grace to blanket our souls
Send us Your wisdom to broaden our views
Help us to see Your infinite beauty
Humble our hearts to stay close to You
Silence our fears that keep us from caring, from helping, from loving, from growing,
from knowing Your truth,
Teach us peace, our Father Lead us now and forever...Amen

Grace T. Mareko

Atua of Glory (God of Glory)

Le Atua o Atua, le Ali'i o Ali'i*, the Chief of Chiefs
You have blessed us with the great Ocean of Peace
You have blessed us with winds and currents
You have blessed us with the stars of the heaven
You have blessed us with the mountains and the greens
You have blessed us with tongues of hope and peace

You have blessed us with scents of stillness and tranquility
You have blessed us with eyes and ears to serve witness to Your love and peace
Le Atua o Atua, le Ali'i o Ali'i*, the Chief of Chiefs

Helena Porter, 10th Grade Fagaitua High School, Am. Samoa
*Meaning: Ruler of rulers, leader of leaders

Atua of All (God of All)

Leader: God, we humbly pray to choose peace within, so that peace will come to our homes, schools, communities, cities, and so nations. And so we will raise hands only to greet each other. God and Creator, we have prayed this many times, but, our fear still holds us so tight, so closed.

People: Reach into us beyond all fear and open us to love ourselves and each other.

Leader: God of Enough, when we are afraid to lose what we have

People: Let us offer it up to the One who gave it freely, and share.

Leader: God of Peace, there are peaceful patterns and paths open to us

People: Let us use them to see that all are fed, housed and find wholesome work, education, and health care.

Leader: God of All, You love each one of us beyond our understanding. You know our stories

People: Give us courage to bring balance and rhythm to our lives and so bring peace to our planet home.

Leader: In the name of the God of Peace, may it be so!

All: Amen!

S. Diane Trollope - Sudbury, Canada

Atua of Heaven and Earth (God of Heaven and Earth)

Oh Heavenly Father,

Let us live happily in the Pacific without hate amongst those who hate.

Let us dwell unhating amidst hateful men and women.

Let us live happily in good health amongst our Pacific brothers and sisters who are sick

Let us dwell in good health amidst ailing men.

Let us live happily, without yearning for sensual pleasures amongst those who year for them.

Let us dwell without yearning amidst those who year.

Let us live happily, we who have no impediments. We shall subsist on joy even as the radiant gods. Let us live happily, sharing, understanding, supporting and helping to hold fast to our customs, traditions and cultures of the Pacific.

Let us live happily in accepting other Pacific Island nations views and comments on most critical issues that deal with the entire Pacific.

Let us live happily in loving one another in Jesus name.

For this we pray, Amen.

by Cherie Ripley

Atua of Justice (God of Justice)

Lord,
God of justice and peace
who stands with those who are poor,
who asks us to be the voice of the voiceless,
we call upon you
for those who have suffered the injustices of war and greed.

From the depths of our being we cry to you, Lord

Hear our cry, and listen to our prayers.

For those of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,

Bikini and Enitwetok,

Kwajalenin and Mururoa,

Fangataufa and Christmas Island,

Johnston Island and Monte Bello,

Emu and Maralinga

Those Pacific people whose precious land and sea have been ravaged by nuclear explosions.

From the depths of our being we cry to you, Lord.

Hear our cry, and listen to our prayers.

For those who are suffering this day from disease, genetic malformation and the loss of those they love, as a result of nuclear radiation.

May their spirits not be broken by their bodies' pain.

From the depths of our being we cry to you, Lord.

Hear our cry, and listen to our prayers.

For those whose land and sea are today being put at risk through radioactive pollution, from dumping of nuclear wastes, and the passage of nuclear ships.

May their livelihood and health be preserved and may they live in peace and hope.

From the depths of our being we cry to you, Lord.

Hear our cry, and listen to our prayers.

We pray that your promise of justice may become real to those for whom we pray.

May they be released to live in freedom and love.

From the depths of our being we cry to you, Lord.

Hear our cry, and listen to our prayers,

for you are gracious, and there is in you

that which is to be feared, that which forgives,

that which strengthens, and that which comforts. Amen.

Intercession from the Pacific Conference of Churches (adapted)

Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we
are born to eternal life. Amen

St. Francis of Assisi

Prayer For Our Enemies

Lord Jesus Christ,
Who didst command us to love our enemies, and those who defame and injure us, and to pray for them and forgive them;
Who Thyself didst pray for Thine enemies, who crucified thee;
Grant us, we pray, the spirit of Christian reconciliation and meekness, that we may heartily forgive every injury and be reconciled with our enemies.
Grant us to overcome the male and offenses to people with Christian meekness and true love of our neighbor.
We further beseech Thee, O Lord, to grant to our enemies true peace and forgiveness of sins; and do not allow them to leave this life without true faith and sincere conversion.
And help us repay evil with goodness, and to remain safe from the temptations of the devil and from all the perils, which threaten us, in the form of visible and invisible enemies.
Amen.

Orthodox prayer

Prayer in Times of Conflict

God of compassion and mercy,
We bring to you our divided society and our broken world,
Seeking your healing and transforming grace;
It is easy for us to point the finger at others,
Yet we know that we all need your forgiveness;
So we lift into your presence today, not only the victims of your conflicts,
But also those we have called enemies.
Break down the walls of hatred, distrust and bitterness
And open a way for us to reach one another in truth and love.

Enable us to build a society where all can belong;
To share our gifts in mutual respect
And to seek for the new future which you offer us.
Through Jesus Christ.

*Travelling the Road of Faith: Worship resources from
the Corrymeela Community, Belfast, Northern Ireland.*

Prayer For God's Strength in Hardship

Lord God, it's a big, wide, troubled sea out there, and our lifeboat, your church, seems so very small. It would be easier to stay in safe harbor – but that's not what we're here for. In storms of hatred, you call us to speak out love. Into depths of war, you send us to bring a message of hope. Dear Lord, keep us on your course.

© Laszlo Medgyessy, Karoli Gaspar Reformed University, Budapest, Hungary

Prayer of a Bosnian Villager

Through a hole in the roof. O my God,
I am trying to see you;
Trying to tell you that all your people are suffering,
Trying to ask you to bring peace,
To please stop this awful killing and destruction,
This murderous frenzy to nationalism!

Prayer For Faith to Overcome Trials

O Father and God of all comfort, through your word and Holy Spirit grant us a firm, glad and grateful faith. By it may we easily overcome this and every other trial, and at length realize that what your dear Son Jesus Christ himself says is true: "But take courage; I have conquered the world" (John 16:33). Amen.

Martin Luther

Prayer For Peace Among Nations

Almighty God and Creator, you are the Father of all people on the earth.
Guide, I pray all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace.
Protect us from the evils of in justice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war.
Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred.
Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war.
Lead us to find justice, peace and freedom.
Unite us in the making and creating of the tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression.
Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise.
Amen.

From an Orthodox Christian prayer book

Prayer For Those in Authority

Holy Spirit, touch the hearts of those who have power
Let them realize the greatness of the responsibility
They have taken upon themselves.
Lead them to set right the broken relationships
Between people and nations.
May they turn all their strength and ability
Towards creating a better world that provides sufficiently for all people on earth.
Jesus Christ, teach us your new justice and unite us into one.

*Czech Republic. An Iona Prayer Book, comp.
Peter Millar, Canterbury Press, UK, 1998.*

Prayer of Someone Contemplating Release from Prison

What shall I do outside?
My Lord!
The days you have given me are slowly reaching an end
What will I do outside prison?
Here I have everything I need
I have a heated room and regular meals.
When did I drink coffee with milk or eat bread with honey outside?
Here I can watch color TV
My Lord, what shall I do outside?
Who is waiting for me?
Who needs me?
Where can I go?
Nobody loves me outside (of course, here neither)
And I, myself, cannot stand on my own two feet
Nobody will employ me with a criminal record;
Nobody needs my work
Jesus ! The pastor here was talking about you with such enthusiasm
Could you really help me?
Are there people outside who could set me up?
Are there Christians who could forgive me
And could I have hope again?
Could it happen, with the help of the people who believe in you,
That I will have a good time once again, even outside?
Jesus, show me the people who consider me important too.
Holy Spirit, only you can show me that it is better outside than here!
Make a miracle with me!
Send me your people, who want to help even me!

Endré Sándor, Hungary. In Happiness and in Sadness.

Prayer for End to War

Once more may the houses become homes,
Not monuments to a way of life abandoned
Once more may the hospitals become preoccupied
By accidents, tumors and viruses.
Once more may the museum, now a barrack,
Become a museum,
With an annex on the subject of war,
In honor of a new and permanent peace.

Cardinal Franjo Kuharic, Croatia

“Pray for all those people who suffer from psychological diseases, people who cannot see themselves as children of God. Pray that their faith sets them free.”

Prayer request from youth member of Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe

Glory to God; Peace on Earth

O God, Who art infinite tranquility, indivisible peace and undivided love; Who by the abundance of Thy goodness didst create man in a state of incorruptibility, but, because he transgressed the commandment through the envy of the evil one, he was condemned to death. Thou hast filled the earth with peace from heaven by the life-giving coming of Thy Only begotten Son, our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, Whose glory even the heavenly hosts praised, saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good hope for mankind."

Fill, O Lord, our hearts with Thy goodwill. And now, cleansing us from all defilement, all deceit, all death-bearing malice, all wickedness and cunning, make us worthy to give one another sincere peace by a holy kiss and to partake of the heavenly and incorruptible gifts of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Whom and with Whom praise, glory, honor and dominion befit Thee, with Thy all Holy Spirit, good, adorable and consubstantial with Thee, now and forever.)

Amen.

From an English translation from Syriac (Aramaic). This is a special Christmas Prayer for the Kiss of Peace (during Orthodox Christian Mass).

God,
From you all thoughts about peace and truth proceed.
Cultivate in our hearts the love, which directs us to peace.
Guide by your wisdom those who govern our nations.
Give free space to your kingdom
Until the earth is filled by the knowledge of your love
Your son came to be the Savior of this world and the Prince of peace.
Give us the grace to be the followers in his footsteps

And to fulfill our mission as peacemakers in Christ's name.
May the Holy Spirit remove and destroy the barriers of fear and hatred.
So that all people in the world may be united in peace and righteousness.

*World Day of Prayer Committee of Poland, 2005, excerpted from the Prayer of Confession,
Let Our Light Shine © 2005 World Day of Prayer International Committee*

Lover of humankind,
Keep unharmed the environment that clothes the earth,
through which, by your will, we who inhabit the earth
live and move and have our being,
That we, your unworthy suppliants,
May be delivered from destruction and ruin.

Verse:

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him, abundant
redemption, and he will redeem all Israel from all his
iniquities. (Psalm 130:7)

Fence round the whole creation, Christ Savior,
With the mighty strength of your love for humankind,
And deliver the earth we inhabit
From the corruption which threatens it,
For we, your servants have set our hopes on you.
Verse: Praise the Lord all nations! Extol him all peoples. (Psalm
117:1)

Put an end, O Savior, to the evil designs
Which are being devised against us by senseless intent,
And turn aside from the earth
Every destructive action of the world of human hands
Which contrive corruption leading to perdition.

Verse:

For great is God's mercy to us, and the truth of the Lord
endures for ever. (Psalm 117:2)

Prayer from the liturgy of St John Chrysostom LUPL

Prayer For God's Lasting Peace

O Lord, my God, grant us your peace; already, indeed, you have made us rich in all things!
Give us that peace of being at rest, that Sabbath peace, the peace which knows no end.

St. Augustine

Litanies from the Serbian Orthodox Church

1.

For God's mercy upon us, His unworthy servants, that we may all be protected from hatred and evil actions, that we may have instilled in us unselfish love by which all shall know that we are disciples of Christ and God's people, as were our holy ancestors, so that we may always know to decide for the truth and righteousness of the Heavenly Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who commit injustice against their neighbors, whether by causing sorrow to orphans or spilling innocent blood or by returning hatred for hatred, that God will grant them repentance, enlighten their minds and hearts and illumine their souls with the light of love even towards their enemies, let us pray to the Lord.

2.

O Lord, how many are our foes who battle against us and say:
there is no help for them from God or man?

O Lord, stretch forth Thy hands that we may remain Thy people in both faith and works.

If we must suffer, let it be in the ways of Thy justice and Thy truth — let it not be because of our injustice or hatred against anyone.

Let us all fervently say: Lord have mercy.

Again let us pray to God, the Savior of all, for our enemies — that our Lord who loves mankind will turn them away from attacks on our Orthodox people, that they not destroy our churches and cemeteries, that they not kill our children or persecute our people, but that they too may turn to the way of repentance, justice and salvation.

Let us all fervently say: Lord have mercy.

3.

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war. We pray for your peace and your mercy in the midst of the great suffering that people are now inflicting on each other.

Vouchsafe to accept the prayers of your Church, so that by your goodness peace may return to all peoples, hear us and have mercy on us.

We also pray, O Lord our God, to remember and have mercy on our brothers and sisters who are involved in civil conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray you, hear us and have mercy on us.

Let all believers turn aside from violence and do what makes for peace. By the strength of your powerful arm save your people and your Holy Church from all evil oppression; hear the supplications of all who call to you in sorrow and affliction, day and night, O merciful God, let their lives not be lost, we pray you, hear us and have mercy on us.

Grant, O Lord, peace, love, and speedy reconciliation to your people whom you have redeemed with your precious blood. Make your presence known to those who have turned away from you and do not seek you, so that none of them may be lost, but all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, so that everyone, in true harmony and love, O long-suffering Lord, may praise your all holy Name.

Russian Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas of Myra in Amsterdam

Dare to speak truth to power

"There is no way to peace
along the way to safety.
For peace must be dared.
It is the great venture. "

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In Time of War

Lord, we pray fervently for people facing the horror of a full-scale war, and for those people who may be called upon to fight. Help us to persuade world leaders to continue negotiations.

Help all of us: individuals, nations, governments and world leaders to remember:

- the unnecessary loss of life for millions of innocent people,
- the scale of human suffering that war brings,
- the right of the people to determine their own future,
- the gross violations of human rights and crimes against humanity that are committed in the name of war.

Nobody has total power over any country or its people but God alone. Let us be open to God's words in our forthcoming decisions and try not to be God ourselves.

The Church of England

Prayer for Peace

God of all goodness,

You have been our refuge from generation to generation.

Your will is that peace should shine on all people everywhere.

With your spirit, guide the efforts of humankind to bring peace and justice to the nations of the earth, and give strength to rulers and all who work to establish peace and justice in the world.

Inspire those who come together in search of ways to bring about peace, and through your word, change the hearts of all people so that we shall strive for:

Peace, and not war,

The Common Good, rather than individual wellbeing,

Your Justice, instead of our own glory.

You have given us your peace. Enable us to share that peace with those around us, so that love and harmony may be always present in our lives, that all the world may know happiness, that we may live with dignity as brothers and sisters, and that all may rejoice in your presence. United in diversity, we call upon your infinite grace, humbly asking you to receive our prayer and make us instruments of your peace.

Amen.

Give me a Heart

Lord Jesus,
While I sail on
Over the troubled waters of my life,
Give me the contentment of knowing
That I have, as a compass,
A heart that will bring me to love's harbour.
Give me a HEART OF POVERTY,
Able to love and open up and give myself to others.
Give me a HEART OF PATIENCE,
Able to love and live in hope.
Give me a HEART OF PEACEFULNESS,
Able to love and sow peace in the world.
Give me a HEART OF JUSTICE,
Able to love and measure myself by the standard of justice.
Give me a HEART OF MERCIFULNESS,
Able to love and understand and forgive others.
Give me a HEART OF SENSITIVITY,
Able to love and weep without being discouraged.
Give me a HEART OF PURITY,
Able to love and see God in everyone.
Give me a HEART OF STRENGTH,
Able to love and be faithful unto death.
Give me a HEART TOUCHED BY THE GOSPEL,
Able to love.

Where is our Earth Going?

Where is our earth going?
Where is our earth going?
Our world, full of weeping, where is it going?
If love is killed,
If we remain divided,
Where is our earth going?
Loving God, forgive us.
Nothing can be born again,
Nothing can be born again and live,
If our fists are clenched,
If our efforts are misdirected,
Nothing can be born again.
Loving God, forgive us.
In order to build the city,
In order to build the city and celebrate,
We need to learn to share,
Share wine and salt and wheat,
In order to build the city.
Sharing God, forgive us.

In this vast world,
In this vast weapon-laden world,
Humankind has been made to love,
And to work for peace,
In this vast world.
Peace-loving God, forgive us.
War - never again!
War - never again!
What we want is friendship.
We raise our voices in support of unity.
War - never again!
God, making us brothers and sisters, forgive us.

Grant Us Peace

Grant us peace that will
BREAK our silence in the midst of violence
then prophetic voices shall resonate

Grant us peace that will
PULL US DOWN from the steeple of our pride
then we'll learn to wash each other's feet

Grant us peace that will
EMPTY us of hate and intolerance
then we'll turn guns into guitars and sing

Grant us peace that will
SHUT our mouths up when we speak too much
then we'll learn to listen and understand what others are saying

Grant us peace that will
DISTURB us in our apathy
then we'll dance together under the sun

Grant us peace that will
BURN our lethargic hearts
then we'll endure burning and let love and justice glow

Philippines

Lord Jesus Christ

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

Prayer of Intercession Militarization

Leader: O God, listen to the cry of your suffering people who know no peace and cringe in terror, who are caught up in the midst of meaningless armed struggle of the greedy. Relieve them of their fears and fill their hearts with joy and thanksgiving.

***People:* Ya Tuhanku kasihanilah daku Ya Tuhanku kasinhanilah daku**
(O Lord our God, have mercy on us; O Lord our God, have mercy on us.)

Indonesia

Poverty and Hunger

Leader: O God, hear the cries of the poor and the hungry. Help us to recognize your Son Jesus Christ in the midst of the least of our brothers and sisters, that we may recognize their needs and fill the empty palms they extend to us.

***People:* Ya Tuhanku (Yes, my God)**

Indonesia

Unemployment and Migration

Leader: O God, whose will it is that we should live by the sweat of our brows in honest toil and labor, open the hearts of those who have the power to employ, so that those who labor receive just wages and a humane working environment. Strengthen us, O Lord, so that we may continue in solidarity with the victims of unjust labor and forced migration.

***People:* Ya Tuhanku (Yes, my God)**

Indonesia

Exploitation of Women

Leader: O God, before whom we stand broken, we have failed to recognize your image and likeness among our sisters and mothers. Show us the way to respect and honor the dignity of every woman that we, with them, may find common ways of enriching our lives as you intend us to do.

***People:* Ya Tuhanku (Yes, my God)**

Indonesia

Child Abuse

Leader: O God, through your Son Jesus Christ you showed mercy upon the children and blessed them with promise of inheritance of your Kingdom. Move us to work for the annihilation of forces that continually deprive children of their sacred rights, that we may uphold the cause for which your Son himself died on the cross.

***People:* Ya Tuhanku (Yes, my God)**

Indonesia

Environmental Abuse

Leader: O God, who created the heaven and the earth and all that is in them, you have entrusted your creation to our safekeeping and protection. Give us a sense of reverence for your creation and our connectedness to the web of life that we may preserve for posterity that which provides us means to live and enjoy life.

People: Ya Tuhanku (Yes, my God)

Indonesia

Displacement

Leader: Harken to the pleas of all people threatened with dispossession and the loss of ancestral lands, all indigenous people faced with the loss of cultural identity, and move us to destroy the forces that seek to dehumanize them.

People: Ya Tuhanku (Yes, my God)

Indonesia

Imperial Power and Globalization

Leader: Regard with mercy, O God, nations whose national security and peace are threatened by foreign domination, who know no sovereignty but only subjugation, control and slavery. Hear the cry of peasants and workers of the third world whose lives are becoming more miserable because of the unjust trade and exploitation perpetuated by WTO. Renew and guide us in our journey towards a better world where life in abundance is enjoyed by many.

People: Ya Tuhanku (Yes, my God)

Indonesia

Thanksgiving

salamat, salamat O Dakilang Manlilikha (our deep gratitude, O Great Creator)
sa buhay, pag-ibig, kapayapaan (for life, for love, for peace)
apoy na nagbibigay ng buhay (life-giving fire)
turuan kaming umibig (teach us to love)
hininga, hangin (breath, breeze)
turuan kami ng kapayapaan (teach us peace)
ilog, tubig, dagat (river, water, sea)
turuan kami ng katarungan (teach us justice)
lupang nagluluwal ng buhay (life-creating earth)
salamat sa iyong biyaya (our gratitude for your blessings)
salamat O Dakilang Manlilikha (our deep gratitude, O Great Creator)

Philippines

Peace in Asia

For homeless children begging in the streets of Colombo,
close to a million internally displaced Burmese,
prostituted women waiting under Bangkok night lights,
church people and peace advocates killed in the Philippines:

We pray for peace.

For the victims of war torn East Timor,

Tuvalu and Kiribati threatened by the rising sea level because of global warming,
the alarming rate of suicide incidents in Tokyo,
sexually abused migrant workers in Singapore:

We pray for peace.

For factory workers receiving low wages in Beijing,
the long standing rift in the Korean Peninsula,
oppressed and persecuted Dalits in India,
refugees starving to death in Afghanistan:

We pray for peace.

For victims of natural disasters in South Asia,
troubled relationships between Taiwan and China,
babies born without eyes in Saigon caused by Agent Orange,
brothels filled with thousands of child sex slaves in Cambodia:

We pray for peace.

We pray for peace so that
carpenters building rich peoples' houses will have roofs over their heads,
the life-giving earth will bless us with its fruits,
farmers, whose tears and blood have watered the fields, will have food on their tables,
textile workers will clothe their weary bodies,
and those who struggle for peace will find justice,
because Christ is our peace.

Philippines

From A Procession of Prayers

God of the dispossessed,
defender of the helpless,
you grieve with all the women who weep,
because their children are no more;
may we also refuse to be comforted
until the violence of the strong has been confounded,
and the broken victims have been set free
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

United Kingdom: Janet Morley

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, and we will give this peace to others.

Italy: the Waldensian Community

Lord, in penitence
I offer you my own mixed up anger,
that it, with theirs, may be taken up into you redemptive will
in which the clash between anger and fear,
oppressed and oppressor,
can give way,
to the incomprehensible action of love
bringing about reconciliation and healing
the embrace of the other
the alien
the enemy
creating the festival of shalom
in which the wolf shall lie down with the lamb
and the whole of life on earth shall rejoice
in the splendor of your glory.

South Africa

To you, Creator of nature and humanity,
in truth and beauty I pray:
Hear my voice, for it is the voice of victims of all wars and
violence among individuals and nations.
Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and
will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg you to instill into the hearts of all
human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice
and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every
country and every period of history who do not want war
and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice, and grant insight and strength so that we
may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with
total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self,
to war with peace.

O God hear my voice, and grant unto the world your everlasting peace.

Prayer of Pope John Paul II at Hiroshima

From the land of the Resurrection and the cradle of the promise of salvation to all humankind through Jesus Christ our Lord, and with a candle of hope, we pray to you, God our Father, that the action of peace seekers and peace makers may bear fruit, so that
Hope will take the place of despair,
Justice will prevail over oppression,
Peace will turn strife into love.

Jerusalem: prayer of a Palestinian Woman

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