

Peace Prayer, attributed to St. Francis

O God,

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 Peacemaker,

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.

The Muslim, Jewish, Christian Prayer for Peace

O God, you are the source of life and peace.
Praised be your name forever.
We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace.
Hear our prayer in this time of war.

Your power changes hearts.

Muslims, Christians, and Jews remember,
and profoundly affirm,
that they are followers of the one God,
children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;
enemies begin to speak to one another;
those who were estranged join hands in friendship;
nations seek the way of peace together.

Strengthen our resolve to give witness
to these truths by the way we live.

Give to us:
Understanding that puts an end to strife;
Mercy that quenches hatred; and
Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live
In your law of love.

AMEN

The Golden Rule

Bahá'í World Faith:

"Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not." "Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself." Baha'u'llah

"And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbour that which thou choosest for thyself." Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

Brahmanism: *"This is the sum of Dharma [duty]: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you". Mahabharata, 5:1517 "*

Buddhism:

"...a state that is not pleasing or delightful to me, how could I inflict that upon another?" Samyutta Nikaya v. 353

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."

Udana-Varga 5:18

Christianity:

"Therefore treat others as you would have them treat you. This is the whole meaning of the Law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12, The Inclusive New Testament (Priests for Equality).

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 6:31, King James Version.

"...and don't do what you hate...", Gospel of Thomas 6. The Gospel of Thomas is one of about 40 gospels that were widely accepted among early Christians, but which never made it into the Christian Scriptures (New Testament).

Confucianism:

"Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you"
Analects 15:23

"Tse-kung asked, 'Is there one word that can serve as a principle of conduct for life?' Confucius replied, 'It is the word 'shu' -- reciprocity. Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire.'" Doctrine of the Mean 13.3

"Try your best to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself, and you will find that this is the shortest way to benevolence."
Mencius VII.A.4

Ancient Egyptian:

"Do for one who may do for you, that you may cause him thus to do." The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant, 109 - 110 Translated by R.B. Parkinson. The original dates to 1970 to 1640 BCE and may be the earliest version ever written.

Hinduism:

"One should not behave towards others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself." Mencius VII.A.4

Humanism:

"(5) Humanists acknowledge human interdependence, the need for mutual respect and the kinship of all humanity."

"(11) Humanists affirm that individual and social problems can only be resolved by means of human reason, intelligent effort, critical thinking joined with compassion and a spirit of empathy for all living beings."

"Don't do things you wouldn't want to have done to you, British Humanist Society."

Islam: *"None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." Number 13 of Imam "Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadiths."*

Jainism:

"Therefore, neither does he [a sage] cause violence to others nor does he make others do so." Acarangasutra 5.101-2.

"In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, we should regard all creatures as we regard our own self." Lord Mahavira, 24th Tirthankara

"A man should wander about treating all creatures as he himself would be treated." Sutrakritanga 1.11.33

Judaism:

"...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.", Leviticus 19:18

"What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. This is the law: all the rest is commentary." Talmud, Shabbat 31a.

"And what you hate, do not do to any one." Tobit 4:15

Native American Spirituality:

"Respect for all life is the foundation." The Great Law of Peace.

"All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves. All is really One." Black Elk

"Do not wrong or hate your neighbor. For it is not he who you wrong, but yourself." Pima proverb.

Roman Pagan Religion: *"The law imprinted on the hearts of all men is to love the members of society as themselves."*

Shinto:

"The heart of the person before you is a mirror. See there your own form"

"Be charitable to all beings, love is the representative of God." Ko-ji-ki Hachiman Kasuga

Sikhism:

Compassion-mercy and religion are the support of the entire world". Japji Sahib

"Don't create enmity with anyone as God is within everyone." Guru Arjan Devji 259

"No one is my enemy, none a stranger and everyone is my friend." Guru Arjan Dev : AG 1299

Sufism: *"The basis of Sufism is consideration of the hearts and feelings of others. If you haven't the will to gladden someone's heart, then at least*

beware lest you hurt someone's heart, for on our path, no sin exists but this." Dr. Javad Nurbakhsh, Master of the Nimatullahi Sufi Order.

Taoism:

"Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss." T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien.

"The sage has no interest of his own, but takes the interests of the people as his own. He is kind to the kind; he is also kind to the unkind: for Virtue is kind. He is faithful to the faithful; he is also faithful to the unfaithful: for Virtue is faithful." Tao Teh Ching, Chapter 49

Unitarian: *"We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent of all existence of which we are a part."* Unitarian principles.

Wicca: *"An it harm no one, do what thou wilt"* (i.e. do what ever you will, as long as it harms nobody, including yourself). One's will is to be carefully thought out in advance of action. This is called the Wiccan Rede

Yoruba: (Nigeria): *"One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts."*

Zoroastrianism:

"That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself". Dadistan-i-dinik 94:5

"Whatever is disagreeable to yourself do not do unto others."
Shayast-na-Shayast 13:29

Some philosophers' statements are:

Epictetus: *"What you would avoid suffering yourself, seek not to impose on others."* (circa 100 CE)

Kant: *"Act as if the maxim of thy action were to become by thy will a universal law of nature."*

Plato: *"May I do to others as I would that they should do unto me."*
(Greece; 4th century BCE)

Socrates: *"Do not do to others that which would anger you if others did it to you."* (Greece; 5th century BCE)

Seneca: *"Treat your inferiors as you would be treated by your superiors,"*
Epistle 47:11 (Rome; 1st century CE)

Examples from moral/ethical systems are:

Humanism: *"...critical intelligence, infused by a sense of human caring, is the best method that humanity has for resolving problems. Reason should be balanced with compassion and empathy and the whole person fulfilled."*
Humanist Manifesto II; Ethics section.

Scientology: *"20: Try to treat others as you would want them to treat you."*
This is one of the 21 moral precepts that form the moral code explained in L. Ron Hubbard's booklet *"The Way to Happiness."*

REST IN PEACE

(by Vietnamese Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh)

I am a World Trade Center tower, standing tall in the clear blue sky,
feeling a violent blow in my side, and I am a towering inferno of pain and suffering imploding upon myself and collapsing to the ground.

May I rest in peace.

I am a terrified passenger on a hijacked airplane not knowing where we are going or that I am riding on fuel tanks that will be instruments of death, and I am a worker arriving at my office not knowing that in just a moment my future will be obliterated.

May I rest in peace.

I am a pigeon in the plaza between the two towers eating crumbs from someone's breakfast when fire rains down on me from the skies, and I am a bed of flowers admired daily by thousands of tourists now buried

under five stories of rubble.

May I rest in peace.

I am a firefighter sent into dark corridors of smoke and debris on a mission of mercy only to have it collapse around me, and I am a rescue worker risking my life to save lives who is very aware that I may not make it out alive.

May I rest in peace.

I am a survivor who has fled down the stairs and out of the building to safety who knows that nothing will ever be the same in my soul again, and I am a doctor in a hospital treating patients burned from head to toe who knows that these horrible images will remain in my mind forever.

May I know peace.

I am a tourist in Times Square looking up at the giant TV screens thinking I'm seeing a disaster movie as I watch the Twin Towers crash to the ground, and I am a New York woman sending e-mails to friends and family letting them know that I am safe.

May I know peace.

I am a piece of paper that was on someone's desk this morning and now

I'm debris scattered by the wind across lower Manhattan, and I am a stone in the graveyard at Trinity Church covered with soot from the buildings that once stood proudly above me, death meeting death.

May I rest in peace.

I am a dog sniffing in the rubble for signs of life, doing my best to

be of service, and I am a blood donor waiting in line to make a simple but very needed contribution for the victims.

May I know peace.

I am a resident in an apartment in downtown New York who has been forced to evacuate my home, and I am a resident in an apartment uptown who has walked 100 blocks home in a stream of other refugees.

May I know peace.

I am a family member who has just learned that someone I love has died, and I am a pastor who must comfort someone who has suffered a heart-breaking loss.

May I know peace.

I am a loyal American who feels violated and vows to stand behind any military action it takes to wipe terrorists off the face of the earth, and I am a loyal American who feels violated and worries that people who look and sound like me are all going to be blamed for this tragedy.

May I know peace.

I am a frightened city dweller who wonders whether I'll ever feel safe in a skyscraper again, and I am a pilot who wonders whether there will ever be a way to make the skies truly safe.

May I know peace.

I am the owner of a small store with five employees that has been put

out of business by this tragedy, and I am an executive in a multinational corporation who is concerned about the cost of doing business in a terrorized world.

May I know peace.

I am a visitor to New York City who purchases postcards of the World Trade Center Twin Towers that are no more, and I am a television reporter trying to put into words the terrible things I have seen.
May I know peace.

I am a boy in New Jersey waiting for a father who will never come home, and I am a boy in a faraway country rejoicing in the streets of my village because someone has hurt the hated Americans.
May I know peace.

I am a general talking into the microphones about how we must stop the terrorist cowards who have perpetrated this heinous crime, and I am an intelligence officer trying to discern how such a thing could have happened on American soil, and I am a city official trying to find ways to alleviate the suffering of my people.
May I know peace.

I am a terrorist whose hatred for America knows no limit and I am willing to die to prove it, and I am a terrorist sympathizer standing with all the enemies of American capitalism and imperialism, and I am a master strategist for a terrorist group who planned this abomination. My heart is not yet capable of openness, tolerance, and loving.
May I know peace.

I am a citizen of the world glued to my television set, fighting back my rage and despair at these horrible events, and I am a person of faith struggling to forgive the unforgivable, praying for the consolation of those who have lost loved ones, calling upon the merciful beneficence of God/Yahweh/Allah/Spirit/Higher Power.
May I know peace.

I am a child of God who believes that we are all children of God and we are all part of each other.
May we all know peace.

Ribbon Vision Statement

We bring The Ribbon,
the work of thousands of hearts and hands,
to our nation's capital
as a gentle reminder
that we love the earth
and its peoples.

Our Ribbon is a visible symbol of
"all that we cannot bear to think of as lost forever."
By it, we say "no" to nuclear war
and to the preparation for war.

We are people of all colors,
from many religious and philosophical,
cultural and economic traditions.
We come in a spirit of love
and with a deep awareness that all of creation
is intrinsically interconnected.

With us we bring our deepest fears,
expressed in a diversity of ways,
and released into a profound hope
that we can find another way.

We come to confront the cumulative violence
within ourselves
and our institutions.
We seek a transformation that will nourish
a social, economic, political
and ecological balance
that can ensure a future
for our children and ourselves.

By our presence we affirm the belief
that war is not inevitable -
that readiness for war already
fractures the peace.

This peace we seek
is much more than the absence of war.
It is rather a peace that is rooted in justice
and imbued with compassion.
It is well-being and harmony,
a restoration of right order among all peoples
and within all of creation.
It is a set of mutual relationships
between beings and the earth
in which power is not claimed by the strongest arm
nor security by the largest weapons system.
It is a state that is realized only
in the full flowering of each person's potential.

The Ribbon represents our acknowledgment
of each individual's
ability to make a difference
in building this peace.
Through it we declare
that together
we can intercept the forces
convening to annihilate the planet.

The Ribbon has tapped
new sources of creative potential among us.
With it we bring a vision, not a program,
a process that is enabling.
Together
we celebrate our human dignity
and own our vulnerability
in this nuclear age.

Peace Prayer

The guns and rockets, drones and bombs are endless.

The pictures of death and destruction

in Syria, Yemen, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Chicago, Miami, Minneapolis,
and so many other places are our daily fare.

Wrap all these people in your love.

Lift their burdens; give them rest.

We pray for an end to violence, war and senseless death.

Grant us this God of Peace.

Grant us a peaceful world. Amen

"Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:19

Jesus is the Son of God. Everyone who answers God's call to be a peacemaker is another daughter or son of God. These could be the "people like Jesus" that I envision in my manic reverie. (They make a big impact on the world.)

Jewish people often say that Jesus could not be their Messiah because He didn't fulfill the prophecy that He would deliver His people from their oppressors. Perhaps if His people had recognized Him as the Promised One and followed Him, He would have been able to lead them to freedom from Rome like Mohandas Gandhi freed India from British rule, but this was not meant to be.

Jesus was very disappointed that the "lost sheep of Israel" did not respond to Him. From a hilltop, He looked down upon the holy city and wept saying, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those that are sent to it!" Another time, He said, "I piped before you, but you wouldn't dance."

[Find citation for "if only" – I tried, but could not.]

Another time, He lamented over Jerusalem saying, "If only you knew the ways that made for peace, but now these are hidden from your eyes." He had taught the principles of peace in the "Sermon on the Mount":

"Love your enemies and do good to others who mistreat you." Matthew 5:44

"You have heard it said, 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,' But I say to you, 'If someone slaps you on the left cheek turn to him the other also.'" Matthew 5: 38-39

St. Francis understood peacemaking. There is a legend that a wolf was ravaging a small town named Gubbio at nighttime. He stole their food and attacked the people. St. Francis sought out the wolf and negotiated with him. The wolf promised to stop doing violence to the town as long as the town folk left food for him outside their doors at night.

By God's design, it wasn't until the 20th century that the implications and power of these teachings were revealed to the world by non-violent actions:

Gandhi freed India from Great Britain's colonial domination.

Dorothy Day taught workers how to get fair wages and conditions.

Cesar Chavez did the same for migrant farm workers.

Martin Luther King, Jr. reversed Jim Crow Laws of Segregation and may have prevented a war between races.

Nelson Mandela overcame the crushing burdens of Apartheid in South Africa and

Archbishop Desmond Tutu turned the residual hatred into reconciliation by means of forgiveness.

Dalai Lama: "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves." A website for him is www.dalailama.com<<http://www.dalailama.com/>>

Many more peacemakers have made our world more just and peaceful. Thereafter, Pope Paul VI said in 1972 at a World Day of Peace, "If you want Peace, work for Justice". It has become a popular bumper sticker.

Today, many peacemakers are striving to teach the ways of peace to adults and especially to children. My friend,

MJ Park, leads an organization called Little Friends for Peace. MJ is assisted by her husband Jerry. They teach peace to many children in summer peace camps and in as many schools as possible. Children learn how to resolve conflict and how to deal with bullies. They learn how to form community with each other so they will never be tempted to join a gang. Contributions from famous peacemakers are also taught to them. They also practice participation in non-violent demonstrations. The web site for Little Friends of Peace is

www.lffp.org<<http://www.lffp.org/>>

Greg Mortenson wrote the book, Three Cups of Tea. He has dedicated his life to building hundreds of schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This reminds me of St. Paul's statement, "Do not resist evil with evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 Mr. Mortenson travels around our country now trying to get every school to put peace studies into their curriculums. His website is www.centralasiainstitute.org<<http://www.centralasiainstitute.org/>>

Another peacemaker Colman McCarthy aims to persuade every school to teach peace at every level. "Give peace a chance, yes, but why not get serious and give it a place in the curriculum: peace courses in every school, every grade, every nation. Unless we teach our children peace, someone else will teach them violence.

<<http://www.azquotes.com/quote/817793>>" A website for him is

www.colman.american.edu<<http://www.colman.american.edu/>>

Dennis Kucinich, a former Congressman from Ohio, tried to get Congress to establish a Peace College. I wrote to President Obama asking him to use the funds from his Nobel Peace Prize for this purpose. He didn't acknowledge my letter. We have military academies to learn about war. We need academies to learn how to wage peace. This would include in-depth research on conflict resolution, negotiation, diplomacy and restorative justice. His website is www.kucinich.com<<http://www.kucinich.com/>>

I am also familiar with the following peace organizations:

The Quakers – Its website is www.info@quakerinfo.org<<http://www.info@quakerinfo.org/>>

PAX Christi USA: the Catholic Peace Movement and PAX Christi International – Its website is www.paxchristiusa.org<<http://www.paxchristiusa.org/>>

The Mennonites for Restorative Justice. They work on reconciliation between perpetrators of crimes and their victims. Their website is www.mcc.org<<http://www.mcc.org/>>

The best way to prepare the way of the Lord is by promoting peace in our own hearts, our families and the world. If you want peace, work for justice!

PEACE CANDLE

July 28, 2012

**WE LIGHT THIS CANDLE OF PEACE AND NAME THOSE WHO HAVE
FALLEN SINCE WE LAST MET. PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE CIVILIAN
DEAD AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE BROKEN IN MIND AND BODY AS THE
RESULT OF WAR.**

THIS WEEK'S CASUALTIES IN AFGANISTAN:

**PRIVATE 1ST CLASS BRENDEN SALAZAR, 20, CHULUOTA, FL
SPEC. JUSTIN HORSLEY, 21, PALM BAY, FL
STAFF SGT. RICHARD BERRY, 27, SCOTTS, AZ
PRIVATE 1ST CLASS JULIAN COLVIN, 21, BIRMINGHAM, AL
SGT. ERIC WILLIAMS, 27, MURRIETA, CA
SGT. JUSTIN HANSEN, 26, TRAVERSE CITY, MI
PRIVATE 1ST CLASS ADA ROSS 19, LYMAN, SC
5 NATO SOLDIERS WHO'S NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED**

**OUR PRAYER TODAY IS THE LYRICS OF A SONG WRITTEN BY U-2
ABOUT THE TROUBLES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. IT SEEMS TIMELY.**

U2 Lyrics - Peace On Earth

Heaven on Earth
We need it now
I'm sick of all of this
Hanging around
Sick of sorrow
Sick of pain
Sick of hearing again and again
That there's gonna be
Peace on Earth

Where I grew up
There weren't many trees
Where there was we'd tear them down
And use them on our enemies
They say that what you mock
Will surely overtake you
And you become a monster
So the monster will not break you

And it's already gone too far
Who said that if you go in hard
You won't get hurt

Jesus could you take the time
To throw a drowning man a line
Peace on Earth
Tell the ones who hear no sound
Whose sons are living in the ground
Peace on Earth
No whos or whys
No-one cries like a mother cries
For peace on Earth
She never got to say goodbye
To see the color in his eyes
Now he's in the dirt
That's peace on Earth

They're reading names out over the radio
All the folks the rest of us won't get to know
Sean and Julia, Gareth, Anne and Breda
Their lives are bigger, than any big idea

Jesus can you take the time
To throw a drowning man a line
Peace on Earth
To tell the ones who hear no sound
Whose sons are living in the ground
Peace on Earth

Jesus this song you wrote
The words are sticking in my throat
Peace on Earth
Hear it every Christmas time
But hope and history won't rhyme
So what's it worth?
This peace on Earth

Peace on Earth
Peace on Earth
Peace on Earth

Music: U2
Lyrics: Bono

Peace Prayer

Gracious God, we pray that you touch our troubled world with your peace. Help us to see a way to end the fighting and the suffering. We remember all the places where hatred and conflict and killing afflicts humanity and today we remember especially:

READ NAMES

...AND those soldiers injured. We remember all civilians killed and injured.

We pray that you may heal our world, that all peoples in every place might live with the peace, justice and integrity that you intend.

We pray that you may change the hearts of those in the world who would use terror and oppression to coerce and destroy.

We pray that you may change the hearts of those in the world who would use military power and abusive power over others to achieve their own ends.

Gracious God Creator of the universe change our hearts, that we might better follow the way of peace, justice and integrity demonstrated by Jesus. Help us to rededicate our commitment to work for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world all year long.

AMEN

Peace Prayer

Gracious God, we pray that you touch our troubled world with your peace. Help us to see a way to end the fighting and the suffering. We remember all the places where hatred and conflict and killing afflicts humanity and today we remember especially:

Sgt. Ken Hermogino, 30, of Edwards Air Force Base, Calif

1st Lt. Demetrius M. Frison, 26, of Lancaster, Pa.,

2nd Lt. Catalin-ionel Marinescu, 28, Romania

*A 15-year-old Afghan boy was killed in Hisarak district Friday

* A 12-year-old Afghan girl and a policeman mistakenly killed by Nato and Afghan forces

8 killed in Pakistan when a US drone aircraft fired missiles at militants

8 International Security Assistance Force service members died in Afghanistan this week

...AND all civilians killed and injured in all areas of conflict including 2 French journalists who have been held captive for 500 days in Afghanistan

Hear our prayer in this time of war.

May enemies begin to speak to one another

Those who were estranged join hands in friendship

Nations seek the way of peace together.

Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by the way we live.

Give to us:

Understanding that puts an end to strife;

Mercy that quenches hatred, and

Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love.