

A poem entitled "PEACE" by Henry Vaughan(1622-1695:

My soul, there is a country  
Far beyond the stars,  
Where stands a winged sentry  
All skillful in the wars,  
There above noise and danger  
Sweet peace sits crowned with smiles,  
And one born in a manger  
Commands the beauteous files,  
He is the gracious friend,  
And(O my soul awake!)  
Did in pure love descend  
To die here for thy sake,  
If thou canst get but thither,  
There grows the flower of peace,  
The Rose that cannot wither  
Thy fortress and thy ease;  
Leave then thy foolish ranges;  
For none can thee secure,  
But one, who never changes,  
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

# Prayers: Peace

Let there be peace, welfare and righteousness in every part of the world.

Let confidence and friendship prevail  
For the good of east and west  
For the good of the needy south  
For the good of all humanity.

Let the people inspire their leaders  
Helping them to seek peace by peaceful means  
Helping them and urging them to build a better world  
A world with a home for everybody  
A world with food and work for everybody  
A world with spiritual freedom for everybody.

Let those who have the power of money be motivated by selfless compassion.  
Let money become a tool for the good of humankind.

Let those who have power deal respectfully with the resources of the planet.  
Let them respect and maintain the purity of the air, water, land and subsoil.  
Let them co-operate to restore the ecological soundness of Mother Earth.

Let trees grow up by the billions around the world.  
Let green life invade the deserts.

Let industry serve humanity and produce waste that serves nature.

Let technology respect the holiness of Mother Earth.

Let those who control the mass media  
Contribute to create mutual understanding  
Contribute to create optimism and confidence.

Let ordinary people meet by the millions across the borders.  
Let them create a universal network of love and friendship.

Let billions of human beings co-operate to create a good future  
For their children and grandchildren.

Let us survive in peace and harmony with Mother Earth.  
Hagen Hasselbalch

From Earth Prayers edited by Elizabeth Roberts/Elias Amidon

# THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

## Prayer for Peace

Let us pray

For those who have died,

for those who have been wounded in body and in mind, *and for their families*  
for refugees and for victims of cruelty and violence everywhere.

Merciful Lord, Creator of us all,

We beg you to rain down your grace upon this broken world.

Wash us,

Heal us

Mend our brokenness,

and bring us peace.

Amen.

The prayer that I proclaimed two weeks ago was an EXCERPT from Sister Joan Chittister's prayer for world peace. (Benedictine Sisters of Erie). The lines in *italics* are what I used. And yes: I have "tweaked" a couple words & changed some punctuation to make it easier to speak. Victoria

*Great God: you told us "Vengeance is mine." Save us from ourselves, save us from the vengeance in our hearts, and the acid in our souls.*

Save us from our desire to hurt as we have been hurt,  
To punish as we have been punished, to terrorize as we have been terrorized.

*Give us the strength it takes to listen rather than to judge,  
To trust rather than to fear, to protect without guns,  
To try again and again to make peace even when peace eludes us.*

*We ask, our God, for the grace to be our best selves, We ask for the vision  
to be builders of the human community rather than its destroyers.  
We ask for the humility as a people  
to understand the fears and hopes of other peoples.*

*For this, we pray, O gracious God ---*

[prayer, in full, continues]:

We ask for the love it takes to bequeath to the children of the world to come more than the failures of our own making.

We ask for the heart it takes to care for all the peoples of Afghanistan & Iraq, of Palestine & Israel, as well as for ourselves.

Give us God, a 'clean heart' to constrain our might,  
to resist the temptations of power, to refuse to attack the attackable,  
to understand that vengeance begets violence, and to bring peace –  
not war – wherever we go.

For You, O God, have been merciful to us.

For You, O God, have been patient with us.

For You, O God, have been gracious to us.

And so may we be merciful, and patient, and gracious,  
and trusting with these others whom you also love.

This we ask thru Jesus, the one without vengeance in his heart. AMEN

**Subject:** [NOVA Community] Symptoms of Inner Peace

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**Date:** 12/7/2014 2:08 PM

**To:** Nova Community <[novacommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:novacommunity@yahoo.com)>

Given our Advent theme, I felt moved to share this excerpt from Kevin Clements' *Conflict Analysis and Resolution*--as offered by Jerry Barrett many years ago in a NOVA newsletter. These words have been a much appreciated touchstone for me ever since.

*Symptoms of Inner Peace*

*Be on the lookout for symptoms of inner peace! The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to inner peace and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has up to now been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.*

Some signs to look for:

- a tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences
- an unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment
- a loss of interest in judging other people
- a loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others
- a loss of interest in conflict
- a loss of the ability to worry (This is a very serious symptom!)
- frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation
- an increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen
- an increased susceptibility to the love offered by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Peace to all!

Anne

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Posted by: Anne Passin <[annepassin@yahoo.com](mailto:annepassin@yahoo.com)>

Prayer for Peace – May 10, 2015

Dear God,

Help us to know your wisdom & your way to peace thru all divine manifestations that speak to the peoples of the world. You have many names, yet human beings have done terrible things in your name.

Show us how to experience peace – in our hearts & homes; in our neighborhoods & nation; across borders & beliefs.

Help us to grow thru fear & hate to a world where men can be calm & not just in control; where women can walk safely alone & learn in groups; where children don't know gunfire & hunger & where sleeping under the stars is a joy & not cold necessity.

For men & women in uniform & for all civilians – in foreign wars & in our inner cities – protect them. And we remember all who have died protecting us.

For all this, we pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

## Prayer for Peace – revised for July 3, 2016

Dear God,

Help us to know your wisdom & your way to peace thru all divine manifestations that speak to the peoples of the world. You have many names. But we human beings have done (and continue to do) terrible things in your name.

Show us how to experience peace – in our hearts & homes; in our neighborhoods & nation; across borders & beliefs.

Help us to grow thru fear & hate to a world where men can be kind & not just in control; where women are safe to walk alone & learn in groups; where children don't know gunfire & hunger, where sleeping under the stars is a joy & not cold necessity.

For men & women in uniform who have died and been injured in foreign wars of our making. We pray also for all women, children & men caught & killed in conflicts of religion, territory & greed.

Show us how to experience peace – even as we fight our own battles to limit guns in this country. The colonists dumped tea in the sea in protest. We seek your wisdom for righteous anger, persistence & persuasion to guide our protests against guns. And we pray for all the victims of gun violence.

For all this, we pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

And for what else shall we pray?