

**Service Knox Church Ōtepoti-Dunedin
7pm Sunday 12 October 2025
Holy Communion**



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

‘Continuing to pray with hope in a troubled world’

leader – Margaret Garland

music – Richie Brown

Welcome Haere Mai

The International Prayer for Peace

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe

We are still...

We sing

Arr. Nicola & Guy Jansen. Tune: *Kum By Ya* - AA 31

E te Atua aroha mai, x3
Ake ake tonu e, ake ake tonu e.

O God love us – *forever and ever*

E te Atua awhina mai, x3
Ake ake tonu e, ake ake tonu e.

O God help us – *forever and ever*

E te Atua manaaki mai, x3
Ake ake tonu e, ake ake tonu e.

O God bless us – *forever and ever*

Praying for world leaders

Union for Reform Judaism

God of history, we yearn for true leadership. For men and women of inspiration and insight, visionaries to build nations and communities in Your image. Stewards dedicated to justice, unafraid to face the challenges of our day, so that our cities and countries resonate with compassion and health, justice and mercy, kindness and peace.

Bless our leaders with dedication and foresight, fortitude and imagination to solve the complex issues that threaten our future. May they lead us to a time when neighbours embrace, and the communities thrive. A time when liberty and equality reign supreme. Source and Shelter, grant safety and security to all nations and communities, so that truth and harmony will resound from the four corners of the earth. Let the light of wisdom shine brightly in the halls of power, a beacon of hope for every land and every people.

A time of silence

Praying for peace in our hearts

Lao-Tse, Taoist Tradition

If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours, there must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart.

Hymn Himene

Taizé

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia

Reading Karaipiture John 20:19-21

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Praying for peace in education

To reach peace. Teach peace. Pope John Paul II

Peace is life

Johanna and Rohan, World Peace Flame

Life is freedom

Freedom is wisdom

Wisdom is education

Education is learning

Learning is giving

And giving is peace.

A time of silence

Prayers for peace from the young

Amias, aged 10

Peace is a gift — use it wisely.

Peace calms fear — spread it widely.

Peace is shareable — offer it to the whole world.

Peace is a blessing — cherish it, don't take it for granted.

Peace starts within you.

Turn inward, find your peace, let it grow — and it will spread naturally, like ripples on a pond.

Year 6, Church in Wales Primary School, Rhaeadr

Dear God, In a world where children laugh and play why is there such sadness?

If friendships can last forever and are enjoyed every day, why do people fight and argue?

When the sun blooms and the sky is blue, why is there battle and conflict?

In school where our ffrindiau (friends) share laughter all day long, why do others suffer? Friends are like gift at your door, kind and respectful and so much more.

So, instead of people fighting why not think about children crying? You gave us bywyd (life) and our world should be a place of peace.

So, help us find heddwch (peace) and kindness in your world. Help us to flourish and live under your love and to treat people as we want to be treated. As sunsets dazzle the evening sky let us find heddwch (peace) and help us feel safe. Peace is all we live for, not to fight and start a war. Can we laugh and have fun with heddwch (peace) in our hearts burning bright like the sun? Mae cyfeillgarwch yn bwysig, Helpwch ni i fod yn garedig a gwenu bob dydd. (Friendship is important, Help us to be kind and smile every day.) Amen

A time of silence

Praying for peace on our streets

Nuns Against Gun Violence, 2024

Vulnerable God, the Sacred Heart of Jesus was ripped open by violence. We believe that in every body beats a sacred heart. We raise our voices in anguished prayer for victims of gun violence—hearts stopped, relationships severed, communities terrorized. We gather today to raise our hands in supplication for an end to gun violence. Fill our upraised arms with courage to strengthen our resolve to educate and advocate for an end to gun violence. May all bodies be cherished, know tenderness and pleasure and the justice of wholeness. Amen.

A time of silence

Praying where hunger is a weapon of war

– a prayer to Allah

Shaun King, North Star blog

Sustainer of every soul — We raise our hands to You not in comfort, but in desperation. Our brothers and sisters in Gaza are being starved, O Lord — not by drought, not by nature, but by cruelty.

Provider, You are the Giver of every grain of food. Most Merciful, You are the One who hears the cries of babies even when the world is silent. Most Just, You are Justice when justice on Earth is gone.

O Allah, open the gates of Your mercy upon people starving. Deliver to them food, water, medicine — not just through trucks and borders, but through the power of Your unseen aid. Let angels descend where governments fail. Let sustenance rain where bombs have fallen. Forgive us for every moment we stayed silent. Forgive us for not doing more. And empower us to become the means by which their pain ends, not continues. Let every starving child be nourished. Let every mother who's boiling grass and water see relief. Let every family who is surviving on hope alone be reminded: You have not forgotten them. Replace their hunger with healing. Replace their weakness with strength. Replace this siege with victory.

And O Allah — hold those accountable who weaponize hunger.
Who blockade food. Who steal sustenance. Ameen (O Allah,
answer our prayer)

A time of silence

We sing our response

Hymn Himene

Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller (alt.)
New Journey's Songbook 89

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, we're one family.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Holy Communion

Sending Out

words: Shirley Murray

"Peace be with you", says the risen Christ,
peace be with us as we hold the word,
peace determine us, peace affirm in us
ways to honour what our hearts have heard.

Peace be with us in the day-to-day,
peace connecting all our dreams and drives,
peace the patient thing, peace that draws the sting,
potent healer of our broken lives.

Peace be with us in the hour of death,
peace in darkness on the way of trust,
peace in letting go all we have or know,
peace, the presence of the living Christ.

Benediction Te Manaakitanga

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa

Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti

Me te aroha o te Atua

Me te whiwhinga tahitanga

Ki te Wairua Tapu

Āke, āke, āke, āmine

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and always. Amen

Notes from WPWP

“In collaboration with Interfaith Alignment and the Iona Community, we offer a digital resource for individuals and communities worldwide during the Week of Prayer for World Peace. Each day features a video prayer from a different tradition and different country, shared by spiritual leaders rooted in their practice. While no single voice can represent the full depth of any tradition, these heartfelt offerings of song, word, and image invite us into a shared space of reflection and hope. We acknowledge the many traditions not represented this year and lift these prayers in honour of all who seek peace—from all faiths and none.”

Access the daily prayers at www.interfaithalignment.org/wpwp