

Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons



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Father and Mother of this world, God,

We pray that you would inspire us to create a peaceful world. Help us call our leaders to accountability and to remind them that more weapons and war do not bring peace. Make us a peaceful people in a peaceful world.

Amen.

by Jill Rauh, Education for Justice

Prayer from Rev. Nobu Hanaoka, United Methodist minister:

O God, the Creator of this beautiful planet
and all that dwells in it,
we now pause to remember the souls
of those who perished in the atomic bombings
and those who suffer from radiation even now.
We join our hearts and voices together
to pray for peace everywhere.
May the deadly power of nuclear arsenals
never be unleashed again upon your sacred creation.
May such weapons of mass and indiscriminate annihilations
be forever banned and eliminated from the face of the earth.
Forgive our silence, O God,
and enable your Church to raise its prophetic voices
to speak against the madness of nuclear pursuits anywhere.
Renew our commitment to be faithful stewards
of your beautiful creation
and vehicles of peace.
In the name of Christ, our Prince of Peace. Amen.

Reading from Pope John XXIII who wrote in 1963: “Justice, right reason, and the recognition of man's dignity cry out insistently for a cessation to the arms race. The stockpiles of armaments which have been built up in various countries must be reduced all round and simultaneously by the parties concerned. Nuclear weapons must be banned.... Everyone must sincerely cooperate ... But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust.” - St. John XXIII, Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris, 1963 nos. 112- 113)

Response:

The Beginning and the End are in your hands, O Creator of the Universe.

And in our hands, you have placed the fate of this planet.

We, who are tested by having both creative and destructive power in our free will, turn to you in sober fear and in intoxicating hope.

We ask for your guidance and to share in your imagination in our deliberations about the use of nuclear force.

Help us to lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so pervasively over our Earth, Your Earth, so that soon all eyes may see life magnified by your pure light.

Bless all of us who wait today for your Presence and who dedicate ourselves to achieve your intended peace and rightful equilibrium on Earth.

In the Name of all that is holy and all that is hoped. *Amen.*”

Reading from Vatican News: Once again, Pope Francis affirms that “**the use of nuclear weapons, as well as their mere possession, is immoral.**” Defending the idea of mutual deterrence, he says, “inevitably ends up poisoning relationships between peoples and obstructing any possible form of real dialogue.”

He insists that adherence to and respect for international disarmament agreements is a source of strength, not weakness, while encouraging his listeners “to continue along your chosen path of promoting a culture of life and peace based upon the dignity of the human person and the awareness that we are all brothers and sisters.”

Finally, he assures them that, “for its part, the Catholic Church remains irrevocably committed to promoting peace between peoples and nations and fostering education for peace throughout its institutions.”

**Response: from Pax Christi Northern California:
Breath of All that Is,**

Preserve us from our own madness.
Direct us away from dealing destruction to others,
A path which leads to the ruin
Of ourselves and our world.
Protect us. Help us to hear You.

Jesus Christ,

Beloved, Show us your precious face in all others,
You in us, and we in each other, from all places.
Teach us how to lower our defenses,
Feed us Love which transcends fear.
Heal us. Help us to let go of all fear.

Holy Spirit,

You Call us, in our minds, in our world,
And through each other. Speak to us. Speak through us.
When we worship power, control, money,
When we cannot forgive, or shove pain onto others,
Call us. Light the fire of Love.
We will not be afraid.
We will not be afraid.
Love transcends all fear.
You Are with us always. Amen

Reading from Archbishop Wester, Living in the Light of Christ's Peace page 35:

I am convinced this dialogue that Pope Francis speaks of is what is needed in our world today. The solution to our divisions and controversies is not violence and war, but the honest and sincere efforts of human beings to encounter one another in fruitful conversations that lead to peace. A dialogue about nuclear disarmament is an essential part of this conversation.

When Jesus sent the 72 disciples ahead of Him, He told them to speak the words of peace to those they met. At His last supper, He spoke again of peace, saying "My peace is my gift to you." When He rose from the dead, His first words to His disciples were words of peace. As followers of Jesus, I hope we can speak the words of peace with one another and translate that Gospel conversation into concrete action for nuclear disarmament here in New Mexico and across the world.

Response:

Peaceful God,

We come to you from the midst of a broken world where nations raise weapons against nations and mothers and children are the innocent victims of violence.

We cry out for peace!

Wise God,

Share your wisdom with the leaders of the world who continue to stockpile dangerous weapons, giving other countries the incentive to do the same, despite their commitment to the Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty. We pray for the ability to overcome our brokenness, cooperating, instead of competing, across borders and boundaries.

We cry out for peace!

God of Comfort,

It is hard to believe that our own country has refused to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, weakening its legitimacy and making our world less safe.

We cry out for peace!

Tender God, Lover of Children,

It is incomprehensible to us that cluster munitions are still acceptable for use in war, despite the terror they wreak upon unsuspecting children and other civilians during war and for many years afterwards.

We cry out for peace!

Healing God,

So many communities have been left in ruins as a result of the destruction of war. We pray for the healing and rebuilding of communities torn apart by war and violence.

We cry out for peace!

