

## Prayer for God's Human Family

### Call to Prayer:

Almighty God, all thoughts of truth and peace come from you.  
kindle in the hearts of all your people everywhere the love of peace.  
And guide with your wisdom all the leaders of the nations and religions,  
so that your kingdom will go forward in peace  
and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of your love.  
We ask this prayer in your holy name. Amen.

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:12-15

### Silent Reflection

### Petitions for Justice, Peace, and Hope

*Response: God of Mercy hear our prayer*

### Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace

God of Justice, remove me from my comfort zones  
So that I can visit the places where the poor and vulnerable live.

Open my eyes to see the potential for change around me  
And give me the courage to take the next step.

Christ of Poverty, empty me from my dependency on possessions and power,  
So I'm left needing and wanting what only You can fill.

Gift me with the faith to see you in each person I meet  
And the courage to take the next step.

Spirit of Peace, stop the raging seas of violence and hate that fill my life, So I can witness your love  
And compassion to a hurting world.

Bless me with the words to proclaim your peace,  
The strength to live your justice and the courage to take the next step. AMEN!

### Closing Prayer

**ALL:** God among us, bless and protect us in these troubled times.  
Forgive our hearts that have been closed when danger is a constant presence for others.  
May the eyes of those considered our enemies be opened, that they may see the Light in us,  
And we may see the Light in them. Then darkness shall be no more.  
We pray that all hatred will dissolve, and healing will arrive.  
May we all be surrounded in the Light of God among us – A God of love, justice, and peace.  
Amen.

## Reading

It is no use saying that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ... Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.

But now it is with the voice of our contemporaries that He speaks, with the eyes of store clerks, factory workers, and children that he gazes; with the hands of office workers, slum dwellers, and suburban housewives that He gives...

And giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ. (Dorothy Day)

Leader: We are grateful for the witness of Christians who remind us that a commitment to the Gospel of Christ is a commitment to justice and peace. With all who care for and love the poor, we offer our needs to *God as we pray...* ***Keep us mindful of your love.***

For all Christians, that the spirit of God may make us ever mindful of our call to serve the needs of all God's people, *let us pray...*

***Keep us mindful of your love.***

For all those who have embraced a life of voluntary poverty so as to serve the needs of the poor and the lowly, *let us pray...*

***Keep us mindful of your love.***

For all those whose lives prophetically challenge the spirit of complacency and selfishness in society, *let us pray...*

***Keep us mindful of your love.***

For the poor and the dispossessed, for the fearful, the suffering, that our deeds of mercy may be their comfort, *let us pray...*

***Keep us mindful of your love.***

**All:** Gracious and merciful God, you do not wish your beloved children to wander in loneliness and pain. As Jesus did, you call us always to minister to those whose hunger and thirst for justice and peace are insatiable. With all the saints, strengthen our heart and hands for the service of the poor, until that day when the fullness of your justice and peace will flower. We ask this as all things through Jesus our Messiah forever and ever. **Amen.**

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