



# Pray for Peace Emphasis

First Sunday of Advent, 2008

## World Methodist Evangelism

World Methodist Council

**T**he **Regional Secretaries**, officers and staff of World Methodist Evangelism meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, June, 2007 fervently called for members of the worldwide Methodist movement to join together to pray for peace on the First Sunday of Advent. These Wesleyan/Methodist leaders who were gathered from all corners of the globe felt deeply the great need for peace today. In this time of stress and conflict in so much

of the world, Wesleyan/Methodists in every country are called in the name of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to lift up a united prayer that peace and righteousness may reign.

The World Methodist Evangelism Division offered this call to "Pray for Peace" to the World Methodist Council Executive Committee meeting in Sydney, Australia in September, 2007. The united call to prayer for peace was unanimously approved.

The affirmed document, "Pray for Peace in Every Tongue in the Name of the Prince of Peace," is available for download from [www.WorldMethodist.org/PrayForPeaceResources.htm](http://www.WorldMethodist.org/PrayForPeaceResources.htm) to use as a "bulletin insert" on 30 November 2008.

There are additional resources and suggestions to help every Wesleyan/Methodist church make PEACE the focus of its worship life on the First Sunday of Advent. Where possible, Wesleyan and Methodist congregations are encouraged to seek out other churches of The World Methodist Council in their area for prayer together for peace.

The First Sunday in Advent, 2007 through 2011, has been selected as a moment for all Wesleyan/Methodist congregations to focus prayer and praise on world peace. It is a liturgical date we all recognize and celebrate, and it is the universal time when Christians celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace and sing in every tongue, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and, on earth peace...."

We would like for you to let us know that your congregation is connecting together with our family around the world in Praying for Peace in Christ's Holy Name. Please send us an email telling us your plans for and experiences in this day of prayer. Email [PrayForPeace@WorldMethodist.org](mailto:PrayForPeace@WorldMethodist.org) and send us your message.

## PRAYERS FOR PEACE

### Communion Prayer for Peace

O God, awaken in us the longing for a life of peace in your world. Extinguish every dispute and banish all temptations to violence. You are the source of all peace.

Guide us so that, through this communion celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we may be led to bring peace and joy to all that we meet.

As we partake of the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus, we ask for the blessing of your Holy Spirit on all who are in the midst of conflict, on all who are victims of war, and all who work each day to bring about peace in your world.

We ask these things in the name of the Father who created each of us, in the name of the Son who died to bring us peace and freedom, and in the name of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to bring peace and wholeness throughout the world now and forever. **Amen.**

### A Litany for Peace

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war and for all those in the struggle to bring about peace in your world. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

#### Hear our prayer!

We pray, O Lord our God, for your peace and mercy in the midst of the great suffering that people are now inflicting on each other. Accept the prayers of your people so that by your love and goodness peace may come to all nations and peoples. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

#### Hear our prayer!

We pray, O Lord our God, that you will remember and have mercy on our brothers

and sisters who are involved in every kind of civil conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

**Hear our prayer!**

We pray, O Lord our God, that all believers will turn aside from violence and become peacemakers. By the strength of your mighty hand save your people and your Holy Church from all evil oppression and empower us to seek righteousness. Hear the supplications of all who call to you in sorrow and affliction and free them to be servants of peace. O God, let no more lives be lost through the violence that humans inflict on one another. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

**Hear our prayer!**

We pray, O Lord our God, for peace, love, reconciliation and healing for all your people in every land. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace

**Hear our prayer! Amen.**

**INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lead me from death to life, falsehood to truth.  
 Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
 Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.  
 Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe. **Amen**

*From the international interfaith organization, Week of*

*Prayer for World Peace, London, England. Used by permission.*

**LITANY FOR PEACE**

**Leader:** Peace is God's vision for the world. Let us pray for this peace.

**Women:** A peace that begins in the home—with children, sisters, brothers and family members caring for one another;

**Men:** A peace that embraces those who are near to us.

**Leader:** Let us pray for an atmosphere conducive to peace

**Men:** Within our villages, towns and cities

**Children:** Where there will be no gangs doing violence to one another or destroying lives within the community

**Women:** Where none will feel the need to carry knives, guns or other weapons for protection.

**Leader:** Let us pray for peace within our nation and for others across the world.

**Men:** A peace that will put an end to war

**Women:** When the noise of rockets, missiles and gunfire will be no more.

**Leader:** Let us rejoice that there are some scenes of peace in the world.

**Men:** The sun or moon reflecting upon lakes, rivers and streams,

**Women:** Gentle waterfalls stroking rocky banks and waves caressing sandy shores,

**Children:** Flowering plants and trees.

**Leader:** Let us thank God for this expression of peace, calm and serenity, and pray that it may inspire us to seek real peace in our world.

**Children:** Let us not forget the peaceful message that comes from watching

pets and animals at play.

**Men:** May we yearn for quietness of minds that reflect peace within ourselves.

**Women:** Let us pledge to do what we can so that peace may be a reality in our time.

**Leader:** Let us pray for this peace within our congregations and churches.

**All:** We will trust Jesus, the Prince of Peace. We will heed His words of wisdom.

**Children:** We will grow up, learning to trust one another

**Leader:** Let us earnestly seek after that peace which the world cannot give but which God in Christ gives for all.

**Women:** Let us put our trust in the One who is perfect peace

**Men:** Who will make our dream of peace a reality!

**All:** And may the Holy Spirit lead us steadily into the experience of peace with righteousness which passes human understanding. Amen.

*Dr. George Mac D. Mulrain, Antigua, West Indies, Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas.*

## LITANY: PRAY FOR PEACE

**Leader:** Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

**All:** Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

**Leader:** Where there is injury, pardon;

**All:** Where there is doubt, faith;

**Leader:** Where there is despair, hope;

**All:** Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

**Leader:** O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

**All:** To be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love.

**Leader:** For it is in giving that we receive;

**All:** It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen**

*Adapted from the prayer of Francis of Assisi.*

## PEACE THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Read James 3:13-18*

*The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

*James 3:17-18 (NIV)*

Peace is a noble goal. But too often we find that when leaders and politicians talk about striving for peace, they mean merely the absence of war. However, peace as the Bible pictures it is much more than the absence of open conflict. Peace includes freedom from injustice.

In addition to the verse quoted above, Psalm 85:10 says, "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other." Both passages tell us that the fruit of genuine faith in Jesus Christ is righteousness and peace, that peace grows from and builds on righteousness.

If we are truly interested in achieving peace in this world—harmony, tranquillity, and freedom from war and its ravages—then we must pursue righteousness. Only when our hearts, minds, motives, and actions are focused on Jesus Christ will we

build lasting peace.

**Prayer:** Christ Jesus, enable us to see you with pure hearts, minds, and motives, that we may be peace-makers in this world. **Amen.**

**Thought for the Day:** If you want peace, live righteously and work for justice.

*Boris Trajkovski, President, Republic of Macedonia. (A lawyer and Methodist preacher, Boris Trajkovski emerged as a peacemaker during the 2001 conflict with ethnic Albanian rebels. With NATO and EU help, he oversaw a peace agreement that held firm up to his untimely death on February 27, 2004, in a plane crash. This material was originally printed in The Upper Room magazine for use on May 11, 2005. It is reprinted from The Upper Room magazine, copyright 2005 by The Upper Room, Inc., P.O. Box 340004, Nashville, TN 37203-0004, and is used by permission of the publisher. Boris Trajkovski received the World Methodist Peace Award in Oslo, Norway in 2002.*

## A CONFESSION FOR PEACE

**Leader:** O God, forgive us! We have turned away from you and have failed to seek your will for our lives, our church, and our world. We have not obeyed your commandments nor followed your calling for our lives.

**All:** Lord have mercy on us, Christ have mercy on us, God have mercy on us.

**Leader:** O God, forgive us. We have too often turned to violence instead of reconciliation, hate instead of love, self interest instead of outreach to others. You have given us a bountiful world of peace and love and we have often turned it into a caldron of turmoil and rage.

**All:** Lord have mercy on us, Christ have mercy on us, God have mercy on us.

**Leader:** O God, forgive us. We have let

greed and fear and envy and hate and prejudice rule our lives so that human conflict has turned to anger, and interaction with others has turned to oppression of those who oppose us.

**All:** Lord have mercy on us, Christ have mercy on us, God have mercy on us.

**Leader:** O God, forgive us. We have let national interest and ethnic pride lead us away from grace and love to hate and fear. We have turned too quickly to armaments for solutions. We have worshipped violence and rejected peace. We have failed to love others as Christ loved us.

**All:** Lord have mercy on us, Christ have mercy on us, God have mercy on us.

**Leader:** O God, forgive us. Even though we preach love of neighbor, we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters around the world as our neighbors. We have taken the easy route of violence and oppression to sustain our self interest rather than reaching out in love and reconciliation. We seek your grace, forgiveness, redemption and healing.

**All:** Lord have mercy on us, Christ have mercy on us, God have mercy on us. **Amen.**

## Praying in Many Languages

A powerful way to focus your prayers for peace is to have persons in your church family (if possible) to pray in their own tongues the Lord's Prayer.

We have included in this resource examples of the Lord's Prayer in different languages. You may use this in your time of praying for peace.

## Pray for Peace Downloadable Resources

### Official Document for Bulletin Insert

Go to [www.WorldMethodist.org/PrayForPeaceResources.htm](http://www.WorldMethodist.org/PrayForPeaceResources.htm) to download a printable pdf file of this 4-page document to be used as a bulletin insert.

### Bulletin Covers

The following bulletin covers are both available for download at [www.WorldMethodist.org/PrayForPeaceResources.htm](http://www.WorldMethodist.org/PrayForPeaceResources.htm).

**Pray for Peace**

"If my people who are called by my name, humble themselves, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

"...seek peace, and pursue it." Psalm 34:14

"...my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed..." Isaiah 54:10

"I will make with them a covenant of peace..." Ezekiel 34:25

"and he is named... Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

"...there shall be endless peace...with justice and with righteousness..." Isaiah 9:7

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." John 14:27

"...in me you may have peace." John 16:33

"...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..." Romans 5:1

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 1:2

"...Glory to God...on earth peace..." Luke 2:14

"For he is our peace...has broken down the dividing wall...he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near..." Ephesians 2:14, 17

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

"...let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts..." Colossians 3:15a

"...then seek peace and pursue it." 1 Peter 3:11

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9


"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10


World Methodist Council  
For Pray for Peace resources go to  
[www.WorldMethodist.org](http://www.WorldMethodist.org)

和平 Hwa Binh Guduru Rauha  
Vaka'egu Lape Fred Amani  
Ειρήνη KAGISO Udo  
Friede Uxolo Asomdwa  
Salam Rahu Alaafia Shant Sith  
Vzeđe Ukuthula Khotso  
Mir La Paix LA PAZ  
shalom Garoo Heddwch

**pray for  
peace**  
in every tongue  
in the name of the  
prince of peace

Pokój Rongo Pyung Hwa Kapayapaan  
Damai Sajahtera Melino Frieden  
Miers Мир Bairs Page  
Sama Lafia Pace Béke Taika





Pray  
for  
**Peace!**

Glory to God  
in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace....  
Luke 2:14

**PRAY FOR PEACE**  
First Sunday in Advent

We who are part of the growing World Methodist family are called in this day of mistrust, violence and war to join hands, minds and hearts as disciples of the Prince of Peace to pray for and seek peace. In Matthew 5:9 we find the foundation for our pursuit of peace: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God."

The coming Messiah was announced by the Prophet Isaiah as the "Prince of Peace." When our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came into the world as the Babe of Bethlehem, the angel declared, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people," and the heavenly choir sang, "Glory to God...and on earth peace..." We who are followers of Christ Jesus must speak and reflect the message of peace that was at the very center of his message, life and ministry.

We live in a complex world that seems to be trapped in a never ending cycle of misunderstanding, conflicts and wars. There are no easy answers to the difficult questions in the demand for justice from the different perspectives of people, cultures and nations. The political arena often fails in its efforts for peace. This is a moment in which we, who are followers of Jesus, must clearly state our confidence and hope that in faithfulness to the Living God we may have peace in the world.

"Peace is a noble goal," wrote President Boris Trajkovski, of the Republic of Macedonia in an Upper Room devotional. He quoted Psalm 85:10, "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other," and he concluded that peace grows from righteousness. President Trajkovski, a recipient of the World Methodist Peace Award, wrote only days before his tragic death, "If we are truly interested in achieving peace in this world—harmony, tranquility, and freedom from war and its ravages—then we must pursue righteousness. Only when our hearts, minds, motives and actions are focused on Jesus Christ will we build lasting peace." (This material is copyrighted 2005 by The Upper Room, Nashville, TN, and used by permission of the publisher.)


Therefore, World Methodist Evangelism, World Methodist Council calls the World Methodist Family to Pray for Peace annually on the first Sunday in Advent, during this quinquagesimum beginning 2 December, 2007. In keeping with the purpose and ministry of this Council and our friends around the world, we will observe a sacred time of fervent prayer for peace in this world and for all humankind. Together we will be praying for

**Peace** with God within our inner selves  
**Peace** within our families and closest relationships  
**Peace** within our churches  
**Peace** within our villages, communities, cities  
**Peace** within our nation  
**Peace** among the nations  
**Peace** for all God's Creation.

We urge the World Methodist Family on the first Sunday in Advent to join together to Pray for Peace in the name of the Prince of Peace in many tongues.

Our prayer is that the bell of peace will ring all over this world.

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men (all.)  
Yet pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men (all.)"  
Longfellow


**Pray for Peace** 

Pray for Peace resources available at  
[www.WorldMethodist.org](http://www.WorldMethodist.org)

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Vaka'egu Lape Fred Amani  
Ειρήνη KAGISO Udo  
Friede Uxolo Asomdwa  
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Salam Rahu Alaafia Shant Sith  
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Clip Art

Following are thumbnail sketches of several pieces of clip art which can be used in your worship bulletins and newsletters to help add emphasis to your Pray for Peace activities. At...

[www.WorldMethodist.org/PrayforPeace-Resources.htm](http://www.WorldMethodist.org/PrayforPeace-Resources.htm)

click on the icon of the graphic you want to use. Then, when the larger graphic appears, download it to your hard drive. Then, insert it into whatever software you use to produce your bulletins or newsletters. Once the graphic has been inserted, it can be sized to whatever size you want and it will be ready for printing on your local inkjet or laser printer.

