



DARE TO BELIEVE PEACE IS POSSIBLE

Reflective Music: Preparing our hearts for prayer.

Leader:

We gather as a community of believers daring to believe that Peace is possible. We are reminded that we are all part of one global human family living together in a world that remains broken and divided. We join together in prayer in hopes that the universal desire for peace may be realized.

Lord God, help us to recognize that you call each one of us to commit ourselves to the effort of peace in the world.

All: Amen

Reader:

Compassionate and loving God, open our eyes to see your love in the splendor of creation, in the beauty of human life.

We are the work of your hands. Touched by you, our world is holy. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with our brothers and sisters, and to experience the joy of life in your presence.

We commend to you our whole world, all countries and races, nations and people.

Send your Holy Spirit to bring peace to our hearts, peace to our families, peace to our country, and peace to all nations.

We ask you this in Jesus' name, today and every day.

All: Amen.

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Leader: Spirit of Wisdom,

All: Guide us.

Leader: Spirit of openness,

All: Transform us.

Leader: Spirit of truth,

All: Lead us,

WATER RITE (Ritual)

(A large empty bowl, a pitcher of water, and a small bowl of salt are placed at the center table of those assembled)

(Water is poured into the bowl from the pitcher)

Leader: Let this water be a symbol both of our common baptism with all Christians and the source of life shared with all peoples everywhere.

(Small bowl of salt is held up.)

Leader: Let this salt be a symbol of the sorrow and the tears in our broken world (A pinch of salt is added to the water.)

(Leader invites participants to name regions where war and conflict are taking place. A pinch of salt is added to the water after each region/people are named).

Leader concludes: Let this salt be a symbol of the sorrow and the tears of those in our broken world. But let us not forget that salt and water can also help cleanse and heal. Let this ritual of salt and water be a sign of our commitment to healing divisions between people, through our prayers, words, and actions.

(A short pause before all are invited to sing).

Song: This is My Song, Vs.1 & 2 (Tune: Finlandia) Breaking Bread #747

Verse 1

This is my song, oh God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

Verse 2

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

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(Pause for reflection and sharing)

Leader:

Let Us Pray:

For Leaders of nations, that the power of the Holy Spirit might grant
them the wisdom to always seek justice and peace, we pray to the Lord.

All: Loving God hear our cry.

Leader: That all might turn from the selfishness, hatred, and violence
that can take root in our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

All: Loving God, hear our cry.

Leader: For Peacemakers, that they will be successful in building bridges of peace in our world, we pray to the Lord.

All: Loving God hear our cry.

Leader: That God might grant us the grace to address the deep causes of war, poverty, and injustice that afflict humanity today, we pray to the Lord.

All: Loving God . . .

Leader: That each of us will be ambassadors of hope to a world oppressed by many problems, we pray to the Lord.

All: Loving God, hear our cry. Bring all peoples together in trust and peace. Amen.

Conclude by singing verse 2 of This is My Song.



Rocks painted in Ukrainian colors by Ukrainian refugees in Poland.