

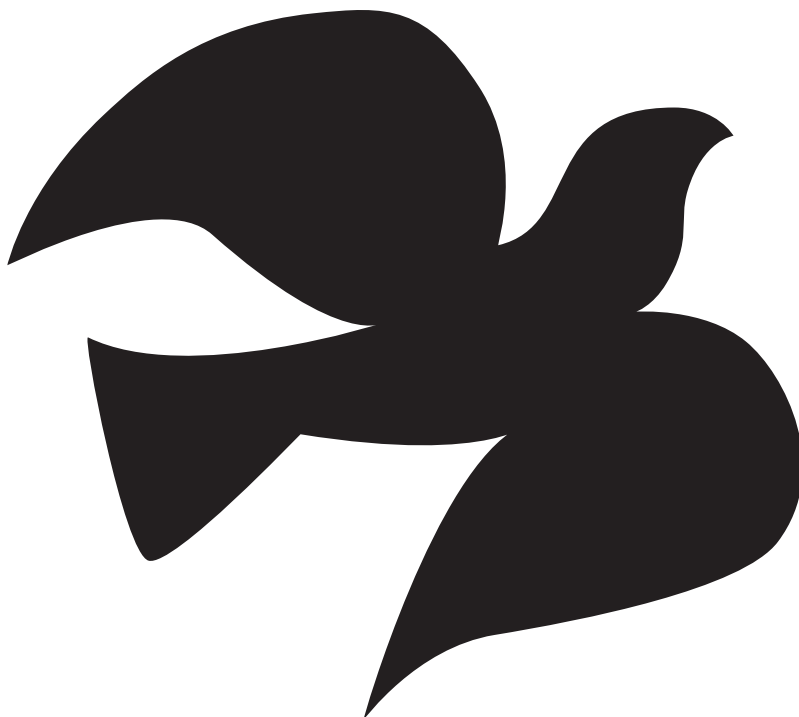
Monday, September 21, 2009

**UNITED
NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF
PEACE**

prayer service

Call to Prayer

Leader: The words are familiar to us and we are filled with yearning,
So we say them glibly, passionately, filled with hope —
Liberty, mercy, freedom, release, grace, peace.
We have some fleeting notion of what we must have
in order to live our lives fully.
And we have some wistful certitude that these gifts
are given only by you,
you with the many names. . . .
You . . . holy, merciful, just, long-suffering, forgiving,
demanding, promising.
We gather ourselves together to subsume our hopes
under your rich names.





1. God, be-yond all names, you have made us in your im-age; we are
2. God, be-yond all words, all cre - a - tion tells your sto - ry; you have
3. God, be-yond all time, you are la - bor - ing with - in us; we are



like you, we re - flect you; we are wom - an, we are man.
 shak - en with our laugh - ter, you have trem - bled with our tears.
 mov - ing, we are chang - ing in your spir - it ev - er new.



All a - round us we have known you, all cre - a - tion lives to



hold you. In our liv - ing and our dy - ing we are bring - ing you to birth.

God Beyond All Names by Bernadette Farrell. © 1990, Bernadette Farrell.

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Reading

All: We name you by your name, *harbinger of liberty*:
 Hear our prayers for liberty.

Reader 1: We are mindful of those caught, trapped, held, imprisoned by systems of enslavement and abuse, by ideas and ideologies that demean and immobilize, by unreal hopes and ungrounded fears. We ourselves know much of un-liberty, too wounded, too obedient, too driven, too fearful. Be our massive way of emancipation and let us all be “free at last.”

Reflection

Reading

All: **We name you by your name, *power of peace*:
Hear our prayers for peace.**

Reader 2: We dare ask for the middle wall of hostility to be broken down, between liberals and conservatives in the church, our community and our world, between haves and have-nots, between victims and perpetrators and in all those arenas beset with violence, rage and hate. We know we are not meant for abusiveness, but we stutter before our vocation as peacemakers. Transform us beyond our fearfulness, our timidity, our excessive certitude, that we may be vulnerable enough to be peacemakers, and so to be called your very own children.

Reflection

Reading

All: **We name you by your name, *fountain of mercy*:
Hear our prayers for mercy.**

Reader 3: Our world grows weary of the battering and the vicious cycles that devour us. We seem to have no capacity to break those vicious cycles of anti-neighborliness and self-hate. We turn, like our people always have, to you, single source of newness. Waiting father, in your mercy receive us and all our weary neighbors. Remembering mother, hold us and all our desperate friends. Passionate lover, in your mercy cherish all our enemies. Gift giver, in your mercy embrace all those who are strangers to us, who are your well-beloved children, make us, altogether, new.

Reflection

Reading

All: We name you by your name, *lover of all that you have created*:
Hear our prayers for a sense of wonder and awe.

Reader 4: The effects of climate change touch the lives of all our sisters and brothers throughout the world, especially the poor and marginalized. Give us the wisdom and courage to walk upon Earth as pilgrims journeying home to you. Open our hearts so that we will understand the intimate relationship you have with all creation. In love you created all that is. In love you call us to protect and cherish Earth. Give us the courage to change the way we live so that tomorrow's children may delight in the wonders of your creation and live in peace.

Reflection

Sharing: Share a story about someone who has touched your life by:

- ✿ setting others free
- ✿ making peace
- ✿ showing mercy
- ✿ living with a sense of wonder and awe

Intercessions

Leader: Make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon.

All: Gracious God, make us instruments of your peace.

Leader: Where there is doubt, let us sow faith;
where there is despair, hope.

All: Gracious God, make us instruments of your peace.

Leader: Where there is darkness, let us sow light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

All: **Gracious God, make us instruments of your peace.**

Leader: Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

All: **Gracious God, make us instruments of your peace.**

Leader: May our lives give witness to the truth that
in giving we receive;
in pardoning we are pardoned;
and in dying we are born to eternal life.

All: **Gracious God, make us instruments of your peace.**

Leader: In silence, we invite you to add your own intentions.

All: **Gracious God, make us instruments of your peace.**

Concluding Prayer

All: **Hear our prayers for liberty, for peace and for mercy.
 Form us in freedom and wholeness and gentleness,
 so that we may act justly, love tenderly and walk
 humbly with you, O God.
 Reform our lives toward
 obedience which is our only freedom,
 praise which is our only poetry,
 and love which is our only option.
 Our confidence matches our need, so we pray to you. Amen.**

Leader: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

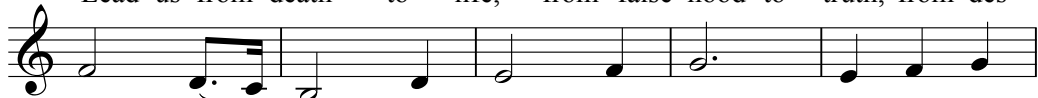
Song

World Peace Prayer

Marty Haugen



Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from des -



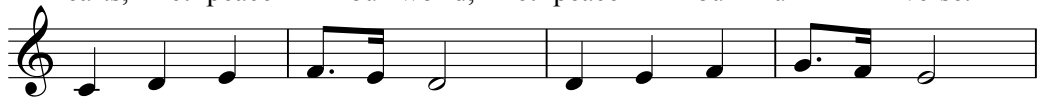
pair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from



hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our



hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.



- 1. Still all the an - gry cries, still all the an - gry guns,
- 2. So man - y lone - ly hearts, so man - y bro - ken lives,
- 3. Let jus - tice ev - er roll, let mer - cy fill the earth,



still now your peo - ple die, earth's sons and daugh - ters. _____
 long - ing for love to break in - to their dark - ness. _____
 let us be - gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. _____

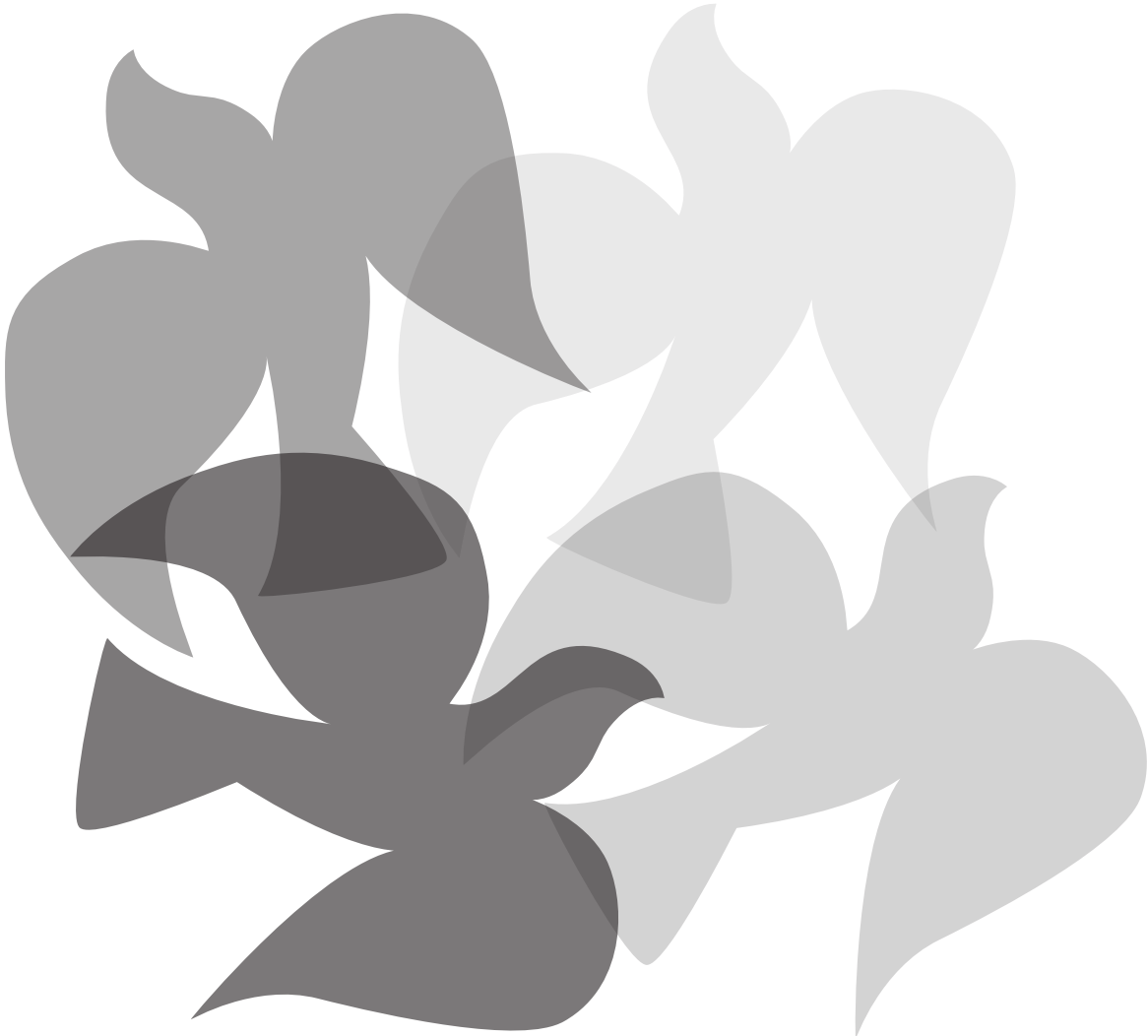


Let jus - tice roll, let mer - cy pour down, _____
 Come, teach us love, _____ come, teach us peace, _____
 We can be love, _____ we can bring peace, _____



come and teach us _____ your way of com - pas - sion.
 come and teach us _____ your way of com - pas - sion.
 we can still be _____ your way of com - pas - sion.

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