

A Litany to Overcome Violence

We believe in overcoming violence between nations;

***“They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.”*** (Isaiah 2:4);

within nations;

***“Love your enemies and do good, expecting nothing in return.
Be compassionate, as God is compassionate.”*** (Luke 6:35a,36);

in local communities;

***“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.’*** (Psalm 122:6,7);

within the home and the family;

***“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord’s countenance be upon you, and give you peace.”*** (Numbers 6:24,26);

within the church;

***“Salt is good. Have salt in yourselves,
and be at peace with one another.”*** (Mark 9:50);

within one’s self;

***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*** (John 14:27);

that is sexual;

“Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” (John 8:7b);

that is socio-economic;

***“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is God’s domain.
Blessed are you who are hungry, for you will be filled.”*** (Luke 6:20b,21a);

from economic and political blockades;

***“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”*** (Isaiah 58:6);

among youth;

***“It is for this that you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.
For ‘let them turn away from evil and do good;
let them seek peace and pursue it.’*** (1 Peter 3:9b,11);

toward religious and cultural groups and practices;

***“For Christ is our peace; in his flesh
he has broken down the dividing wall of hostility,
and proclaimed peace to those who were far off
and peace to those who were near.”*** (Ephesians 2:14,17);

within legal systems;

***“Great peace have those who love your law, O God;
nothing can make them stumble.”*** (Psalm 119:165);

against creation;

***“The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay
and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”*** (Romans 8:21);

from racial and ethnic hatred;

“All this is from God, who has given us the ministry of reconciliation, entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.” (2 Corinthians 5:18 a,c,19b).

Other possibilities

“They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, ‘Peace, peace’ when there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 6:14)

“O Lord, you will ordain peace for us, for indeed, all that we have done, you have done for us.” (Isaiah 26:12)

“The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result will be quietness and trust forever.” (Isaiah 32:17)

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who speaks peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.” (Isaiah 52:7)

“My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.” (Isaiah 54:10)

“Peace, peace to the far and the near, says the Lord, and I will heal them.” (Isaiah 57:19)

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

“God shows no partiality, but in every nation any who shows awe and does what is right is acceptable to God.” (Acts 10:34b,35)

“Let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” (Romans 14:19)

“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

“Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

compiled by Brian Perkins-McIntosh