

Prayers from many religious traditions

(Many of these first prayers are attributed to Mahatma Gandhi)

Baha'i Prayer for Peace

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.

Be fair in judgment, and guarded in thy speech,

Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger.

Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring

Be a breath of life to the body of humankind,

a dew to the soil of the human heart,

and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

Jewish Prayer for Peace

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

that we may walk the paths of the Most High.

And we shall beat our swords into plough shares,

and our spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation -

neither shall they learn war any more.

And none shall be afraid,

for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.

Hindu Prayer for Peace

Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the Real.

Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.

Oh God, lead us from death to immortality.

Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.

Oh Lord God almighty, may there be peace in celestial regions.

May there be peace on Earth.

May the waters be appeasing.

May herbs be wholesome,

and may trees, plants bring peace to all.

May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.

May thy Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world.

May all things be a source of peace to us.

And may thy peace itself, bestow peace on all

and may that peace come to me also.

Jainist Prayer for Peace

Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel preached by all Enlightened Ones.

The Lord has preached that equanimity is the Dharma

Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me.

Unto all have I amity, and unto none enmity.

Know that violence is the root cause of all miseries in the world.

Violence, in fact, is the knot of bondage.

"Do not injure any living being."

This is the eternal, perennial, and unalterable way of spiritual life.

A weapon, howsoever powerful it may be, can always be superseded by a superior one; but no weapon can, however, be superior to non-violence and love.

Muslim Prayer for Peace

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful.

Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations

That we may know each other, not that we may despise each other.

If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust God, for the Lord is the one that heareth and knoweth all things.

And the servants of God,

Most gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility,

and when we address them, we say "PEACE."

Native African Prayer for Peace

Almighty God, the Great Thumb we cannot evade to tie any knot;

the Roaring Thunder that splits mighty trees:

the all-seeing Lord up on high who sees even the footprints of an antelope on a rock mass here on Earth.

You are the one who does not hesitate to respond to our call.

You are the cornerstone of peace.

Native American Prayer for Peace

Oh Great Spirit of our Ancestors, I raise my pipe to you.

To your messengers the four winds, and to Mother Earth who provides for your children.

Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect,

and to be kind to each other so that they may grow with peace of mind

Let us learn to share all good things that you provide for us on this Earth.

Zoroastrian Prayer for Peace

We pray to God to eradicate all the misery in the world:

that understanding triumph over ignorance,

that generosity triumph over indifference,

that trust triumph over contempt,

and that truth triumph over falsehood

Sikh Prayer for Peace

God adjudges us according to our deeds, not the coat that we wear:

that Truth is above everything, but higher still is truthful living.

Know that we attaineth God when we loveth,

Know that we attaineth God when we loveth,

and only victory endures in consequences of which no one is defeated.

Christian Prayer for Peace

Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS, for they shall be known as the Children of God.

But I say to you that here, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

To those who strike you on the cheek, offer the other one also,
and from those who take away your cloak, do not withhold your coat as well.

Give to everyone who begs from you, and of those who take away your goods,
do not ask for them again.

And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

Litany for Peace

One: From words and deeds that provoke discord, prejudice and hatred,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: From suspicions and fears that stand in the way of reconciliation,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: From believing and speaking lies about other peoples or nations,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: From cruel indifference to the cries of the hungry and homeless,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: From all that prevents us from fulfilling your promise of peace,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: ***Deliver us from*** our brokenness, we pray, O God,
All: and by your grace and healing presence ***deliver us to You...***

One: To still waters and green pastures,
All: O Creating God, deliver us.

One: To the freedom and forgiveness we find in you,
All: O Risen Christ, deliver us.

One: To the tough task of loving our enemies,
All: O Jesus, deliver us.

One: To joyful service in your name,
All: O Servant of All, deliver us.

One: To the promise of a new heaven and a new earth,
To the wholeness of justice,
To the power of your peace,
All: O Holy Spirit, deliver us now and in the days to come.

Closing Prayer Charge our lives and our churches with the power of your peace, O God. Overcome our fears and self-deceptions with the promise of your presence. Make us signs of your generosity and justice. Light us each day with hope, we pray, so that we may walk in your truth and be love in your Name. Amen.

This prayer authored by Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy was used in many places in inter-religious worships around the time of the Gulf War in 1991:

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but You.
Great and wonderful are Your works, wondrous are your ways.
Thank You for the many splendoured variety of Your creation.
Thank You for the many ways we affirm Your presence and purpose,
and the freedom to do so.
Forgive our violation of Your creation.
Forgive our violence toward each other.
We stand in awe and gratitude for Your persistent love
for each and all of Your children:
Christian, Jew, Muslim,
as well as those with other faiths.
Grant to all and our leaders attributes of the strong;
mutual respect in words and deed,
restraint in the exercise of power, and
the will for peace with justice, for all.
Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but You. Amen.

(Excerpted from *Current Dialogue* 24/93, p.36)

The following prayer is taken from a Monday morning worship in the Ecumenical Centre:

O Lord,
you love justice and you establish peace on earth.
We bring before you the disunity of today's world;
the absurd violence, and the many wars,
which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world;
human greed and injustice,
which breed hatred and strife.
Send your spirit and renew the face of the earth;
teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family;
strengthen the will of all those
who fight for justice and for peace,
and give us that peace which the world cannot give.
All: Amen.

From Pax Christi:

We come to you, God Creator.
You are the source of life and beauty and power.
Your son Jesus is the way of faith and hope and love.
Your Spirit is the fire of love, the fount of wisdom, the bond of unity.
You call us at all times to be people of the beatitudes,
Witnesses to the Gospel of peace and love and forgiveness.
You call us at this time, when war and rumours of war,
weigh heavily on the peoples of Iraq and the Middle East.
Their lives are already broken by suffering and violence.
We renew our acceptance of your call.

We promise to work:
To bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness,
To bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair,
To bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely,
the disadvantaged, the marginalized,
And to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world.
Amen.

Creed of hope

I believe in God.

The God of all creeds, with all their truths.

But, above all, in the God
that rises from the dead words
to become part of life.

I believe in God that accompanies me along
every step of my path on this earth,
many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes,
other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me,
and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.

I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ,
the God who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes,
the God who walked in my ways, and knows of lights and shadows.

The God who ate and starved,
who had a home and suffered loneliness,
who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved and hated.

The God who went to parties and funerals,
the God who laughed and cried.

I believe in the God who is attentive today, who looks at the world
and sees the hatred that segregates, divides,

sets people aside, hurts and kills,
who sees the bullets piercing the flesh,
and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth,
who sees the hand that dips into another's pocket,
stealing what somebody needs to eat,

who sees the judge that favours the highest bidder,
the truth and justice of hypocrites,

who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish,
the toxic substances destroying the earth
and piercing the sky

who sees the future mortgaged and
man's debt growing.

I believe in God who sees all this ...
and keeps on crying.

But I also believe in God

who sees a mother giving birth - a life born from pain,

who sees two children playing - a seed growing,

who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning,

who sees three crazy women clamoring for justice - an illusion that doesn't die

who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.
I believe in God who sees all this ...
and laughs,
because,
in spite of it all,
there is hope.

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Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Rom 3,23)

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
Father forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
Father forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
Father forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
Father forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
Father forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,
Father forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave
you.

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