



Call to Prayer for Justice and Peace in Myanmar

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus accepts death on a cross rather than engaging in violence. The contrast between the Prince of Peace and the powers and dominions of his day could not be starker. This is the basis of the Palm Sunday tradition of protest in favor of peace and non-violent alternatives for addressing social, ecological and economic and political issues.

The Office for Social Justice invites you on Palm Sunday, and beyond, to pray for justice and peace in Myanmar. We offer this prayer resource for adaption and use in families, schools, groups or communities, or for private prayer and reflection. For example, you could use some of the intercessions at Mass, print extracts in your newsletter or bulletin, or simply say the closing prayer alone or with others.

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Prayer for Justice and Peace in Myanmar

Gathering

L. As we gather for prayer on we bring to mind the hopes for a just peace of people around the world, especially the people of Myanmar. We speak the names of these people and communities ...

All present to add the names of people and communities

L. We remember too creation's longing for peace with people and with God. We speak the names of creatures and places longing for our care ...

All present to add the names of creatures and places

L. We listen now to the Word of God.

Scripture

Philippians 2: 5-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reflection

Time for silent reflection, with an option to read the following reflection.

Jesus is known by many names, including Prince-of-Peace (Isaiah 9:6). As Isaiah goes on to say “He will reign on David’s throne and over all his kingdom; he will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness” (Is 9:7). Jesus is a peacemaker: he shows us how to live in right relationship with ourselves, with each other, with God, and with the whole of God’s creation.

The Reign or Dominion of God is not just a future event for which we simply wait. It is already present and active among us. God invites us to participate in its unfolding until, in the fullness of time, God brings it to completion. We don’t just wish for a peaceful world, peaceful communities and peaceful families – we are called to live in a way that brings these things into being. It is a way of making the kingdom of justice, love and peace announced by the Prince of Peace manifest in the world.

Sandie Cornish



Psalm

Psalm 22: 23-32 (ICEL translation)

I will proclaim your name to my people,

I will praise you in the assembly.

R: I will proclaim your name to my people.

Give praise, all who fear God:
revere and honour the Lord,
children of Israel, people of Jacob.
The Lord never scorns the afflicted,
never looks away, but hears their cry.

R

I will sing of you in the great assembly,
make good my promise before your
faithful.
The poor shall eat all they want.
Seekers of God shall give praise.
“May your hearts live forever!”

R

All people shall remember and turn,
all races will bow to the Lord,
who holds dominion over nations.
The well-fed crowd kneel before God,
all destined to die bow low.

R

My soul lives for the Lord!
My children will serve,
will proclaim God to the future,
announcing to peoples yet unborn,
“God saves”.

R

Prayers of Intercession

L. Let us place our longing for justice and peace before God.

For the Church, that we may become a community of peace-builders in and for our troubled world, we pray:

R: Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

For public authorities in Myanmar and around the world, that they may lead in just and non-violent ways, we pray:

R: Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

For the people of Myanmar, who long for a just peace, we pray:

R: Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

For our own local communities, that we may walk in ways of non-violence, we pray:

R: Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.



Closing Prayer

Jesus, Prince of Peace,
banish from our souls
whatever might endanger peace.

Transform us into witnesses
of truth, justice and love.

Enlighten the minds of rulers
that they may care for their peoples
and guarantee them the gift of peace.

Inflame our desires
to break through the barriers that divide us,
to strengthen the bonds of mutual love,
to learn to understand one another,
to pardon those who have done us wrong.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,
through your power and inspiration,
may all peoples welcome each other to their hearts
as sisters and brothers.

And may the peace they long for
ever flower and ever reign among them.

AMEN

[An Advent Prayer for Peace](#), by Sandie Cornish, adapted from *Pacem in Terris* n 171