

Service for Peace
September 20, 2020
First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 South Moore Street
Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845

Welcome

A Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 48:12-14a, 17-18b

Silent Reflection

A Prayer for Peace (read together)

Our Lord and God Almighty, we praise you, for you created us all and made us into many different tribes and nations, that we may befriend one another and that we may not despise each other. Open our hearts, we pray, so that we may respond to the needs of all our brothers and sisters. Oh Lord Jesus, bless all our lands with more lasting peace and fraternal understanding. Above all, heavenly Father, touch the hearts of our political leaders and all those in power. We pray that they may exercise power gently, that they may humbly seek a disinterested dialogue that will bring about understanding, leading us all to a place where all nations and all people live together in peace and harmony. Where there is bitterness teach us forgiveness and reconciliation, replace hatred with love and indifference with care. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. *A Prayer from Tanzania*

A Reading from The Quran 49:10

Silent Reflection

A Prayer for Peace

Lord, we pray for: Peace for those who weep in silence; Peace for those who cannot speak; Peace when all hope seems to disappear. In the midst of rage, of violence and disappointment; In the midst of wars and destruction of the earth; Lord, show us your light in the darkness. Lord, we pray for: Peace for those who raise their voices to demand it, Peace when there are many who do not wish to hear of it; Peace as we find the way to justice. Amen. *A Prayer from Jamaica*

A Reading from the New Testament Luke 19:41-42a

Silent Reflection

A Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen – *St. Francis of Assisi*

A Quote from Gandhi

Silent Reflection

A Prayer for Peace

God of all goodness, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. Your will is that peace should shine on all people everywhere. With your spirit, guide the efforts of humankind to bring peace and justice to the nations of the earth, and give strength to rulers and all who work to establish peace and justice in the world. Inspire those who come together in search of ways to bring about peace, and through your word, change the hearts of all people so that we shall strive for: Peace, and not war, The Common Good, rather than individual wellbeing, Your Justice, instead of our own glory. You have given us your peace. Enable us to share that peace with those around us, so that love and harmony may be always present in our lives, that all the world may know happiness, that we may live with dignity as brothers and sisters, and that all may rejoice in your presence. United in diversity, we call upon your infinite grace, humbly asking you to receive our prayer and make us instruments of your peace. Amen. *A Prayer from Latin America*

A Reading from the Old Testament Psalm 120:6-7

Silent Reflection

A Prayer for Peace

Grant us peace that will BREAK our silence in the midst of violence, then prophetic voices shall resonate. Grant us peace that will PULL US DOWN from the steeple of our pride, then we'll learn to wash each other's feet. Grant us peace that will EMPTY us of hate and intolerance, then we'll turn guns into guitars and sing. Grant us peace that will SHUT our mouths up when we speak too much, then we'll learn to listen and understand what others are saying. Grant us peace that will DISTURB us in our apathy,

then we'll dance together under the sun. Grant us peace that will BURN our lethargic hearts, then we'll endure burning and let love and justice glow. Amen. A Prayer from the Philippines

A Reading from the New Testament Romans 12:9-18

Silent Reflection

A Prayer for Peace

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. Amen. A Prayer from a Monday morning worship in the Ecumenical Centre:

A Closing Reflection "A Culture of Peace"

Going Forth in Peace

A free-will offering for The Carter Center for Peace will be collected. Please place your gift in the offering plate that is on the table.

Prthvee par shaanti - Hindi



Peace on Earth - English

jigwe pyeonghwa - Korean

Frieden auf Erden - Afrikaans

Shìjì hépíng - Chinese

kapayapaan sa daigdig - Filipino

pace sulla Terra - Italian

paz en la tierra - Spanish

mir na Zem - Russian

karapihan di bumiho -
Sundanese Vietnamese

hoà Bình trên trái đất -
Vietnamese