

## **Prayer for Peace**

Our Heavenly Father, creator of our world, and sustainer of life, as we know it. We thank you and praise you for all the blessings you have given unto us. We thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, whose birth we have just celebrated. The Holy Scriptures tell us that He is to be called “The Prince of Peace.” How sad he must feel when he sees no real peace in our world.

Father, there are those of your creation whose faith and ideology is different from ours and are using your name to wreak havoc on others including their own people. It is difficult for us to accept that their belief in a “supreme being” would allow them to do such terrible things. Help us to understand each other and to realize that there is only a group of fanatics who are using your name to spread terror and death and destruction to others. Grant the true believers of all faiths, who look to you as their God, the strength and courage to follow your ways as they understand your teachings and seek to live in peace with those of other faiths.

Father, there are parents whose sons and daughters are in harm’s way as I speak. They are willing to give up their lives in pursuit of peace for others. Many of them are also mothers and fathers whose sons and daughters may not have the opportunity to know them and our hearts cry out to those children. Bless those whose lives have been lost and grant them eternal peace. May your Holy Spirit reach out to all those who have lost their loved ones and bath them in your peace and love. May it touch the lives of those who have been maimed and crippled both mentally as well as physically in service to our country; bless them, O Lord, for all their sacrifices and bring them the inner peace they so richly deserve.

May the leaders of all nations be touched and blessed by the spirit of wisdom that they might be enabled to find the ways and means to live in peace with one another. What a blessing it would be if the world community could use the resources you have given us to wage war on hunger, poverty and disease instead of on each other. Father, we thank thee that we live in a nation where the freedom to worship is both a right and a privilege. Help us to be more understanding and tolerant of one another in our everyday living.

We talk of peace in the world and so often forget about peace among family and friends. Forgive us for our sins and indiscretions toward one another. Give us the courage to step forward in love and to seek reconciliation among those we may have offended in the past. Help us to heal any wounds we may have inflicted by the use of a sharp tongue with words spoken in haste or anger. Help us to swallow our pride and be humble in both the giving and the acceptance of forgiveness in our relationships. Let us take your words to “love one another” to heart and put them into practice so our immediate families, our church family and our family of friends will see our willingness to take the teachings of the Gospel through Jesus Christ and make them more than just words. Let the words love and forgiveness be action words that can lead us toward making The Community of Christ a true haven of peace. Grant to all people the courage and the resolve in the New Year before us to be a more loving, a more understanding, a more tolerant, and a more forgiving people. As always Lord we give you the honor and the glory and praise. And we offer this prayer as a plea for peace in the Holy and Sacred Name of the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.