



Disciples Peace Fellowship Peace Sunday Resources for 2014

Meditation and Liturgical Resources for the traditional Peace Sunday in Advent or any time Peace and Justice Resources would be helpful for Disciples' congregations and ministries. Further resources, and DPF Summer Intern meditations, go to our website: DPFweb.org

Note: "peace days"

There are many dates both in the church year and in the secular calendar that can be used as a focus for peace with justice activity. Here are a few in the fall and winter months:

Sept. 19, UN Day of Peace

Oct. 2, [International Day of Non-Violence](#) - Birthday of Gandhi, nonviolence innovator

Oct. 4, feast day of St. Francis of Assisi

Nov. 11, Veterans Day, feast day of St. Martin of Tours (early conscientious objector) and Martin Luther

All of Advent, but particularly "Peace Sunday" for Disciples

Dec. 10, UN Human Rights Day

Dec. 28, Holy Innocents

Jan. 1, World Day of Peace

Jan. 17, birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Feb. 4, birth of [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#)

SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS:

"The way of peace they have not known." (Romans 3:17, NRSV)

"All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Romans 8:14, NRSV)

A collection of Bible verses for reflection on peace for International Day of Prayer for Peace – Sunday Closest to September 21 each year

Suggested Biblical texts for reflection:

- Psalm 51: 10-17
- Psalm 85
- Ephesians 2: 11-22
- Romans 14: 19-15: 7
- Matthew 5: 3-12
- John 14: 23-31
- John 20: 19-23
- Isaiah 60: 17-22
- Gal 5: 22-25
- Rom 12: 18-21
- James 3:18

REFLECTION PIECES:

"One of the titles by which Jesus is known is Prince of Peace, and he used the word himself in what seem at first glance to be two radically contradictory utterances. On one occasion he said to the disciples, 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword' (Matthew 10:34). And later on, the last time they ate together, he said to them, 'Peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you' (John 4:27). The contradiction is resolved when you realize that for Jesus peace seems to have meant not the absence of struggle but the presence of love."

--Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*
(HarperSanFrancisco, div. HarperCollins Publishing House, 1993)

"It cannot be stressed too much: love of enemies has, for our time, become the litmus test of authentic Christian faith. Commitment to justice, liberation, or the overthrow of oppression is not enough, for all too often the means used have brought in their wake new injustices and oppressions. Love of enemies is the recognition that the enemy, too, is a child of God. The enemy too believes he or she is in the right, and fears us because we represent a threat against his or her values, lifestyle, or affluence. When we demonize our enemies, calling them names and identifying them with absolute evil, we deny that they have that of God within them that makes transformation possible. Instead, we play God. We write them out of the Book of Life. We conclude that our enemy has drifted beyond the redemptive hand of God.

"I submit that the ultimate religious question today is no longer the Reformation's 'How can I find a gracious God?' It is instead, 'How can I find God in my enemy?' What guilt was for Luther, the enemy has become for us: the goad that can drive us to God. What has formerly been a purely private affair-- justification by faith through grace--has now, in our age, grown to embrace the world. As John Stoner comments, we can no more save ourselves from our enemies than we can save ourselves from sin, but God's amazing grace offers to save us from both. There is, in fact, no other way to God for our time but through the enemy, for loving the enemy has become the key both to human survival in the age of terror

and to personal transformation. Either we find the God who causes the sun to rise on evil and on the good, or we may have no more sunrises."

--Walter Wink, *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way*
(Fortress: 2003; pp. 59-60)

"If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

"If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

"If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbors.

"If there is to be peace between neighbors,
There must be peace in the home.

"If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart."

--Lao Tse (Chinese philosopher, 6th century B.C.)

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

By Dr. Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God.
Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

Your playing small doesn't help the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.
As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence liberates others.

Nelson Mandela

Glen Gersmehl de una idea por Marian Wright Edelman

Salmo 85:8-10, Salmo 29: 11

ORACIÓN DE APERTURA

Dios, nuestra esperanza y nuestro anhelo
esperamos tu venida
así como la mujer ansía el nacimiento
como el exiliado su hogar
el amante el toque de la amada
y los pobres humildes la justicia

Janet Morley, Ayuda Cristiana
de "*Bread of Tomorrow*"

LETANÍA

Líder: De palabras y hechos que alientan la discordia, prejuicio, y odio;

Todos: O Señor líbranos.

Líder: De sospechas y temores que interfieren con la reconciliación;

Todos: O Señor líbranos.

Líder: De escuchar, creer, y hablar mentiras acerca de otras personas o naciones;

Todos: O Señor líbranos.

Líder: De codiciar dinero o poder que muchas veces es la base que conduce al homicidio;

Todos: O Señor líbranos.

Líder: De la falta de atención al clamor de los indefensos y necesitados, que mata la indiferencia;

Todos: O Señor líbranos.

Líder: De todo lo que impide que la familia de los seres humanos cumpla con tu promesa de paz;

Todos: O Señor líbranos.

ORACIÓN FINAL:

Mueve tu poder, O Señor, y entra a nuestras vidas y a nuestras iglesias con tu paz. Guíanos para ser portadores de tu shalom a nuestros vecinos y al mundo. Llénanos de confianza y esperanza para que podamos vivir en la verdad y ser amor en tu Nombre. Amen.

Marva Dawn de la Fraternidad de Paz Luterana

BENDICIÓN:

Que el Dios que los creó les bendiga con gozo. Que el Dios que los ama los llene de compasión. Que el Dios que los llama por nombre sea su fuente de fortaleza. Que el Dios que los perdona por completo, los libere de todo que los tiene atados. Que Dios los bendiga y les conceda a ustedes y a nuestro mundo, perpetua paz. Amen.

de "Our Prayers Rise Like Incense," **Pax Christi**

ORACIÓN

Querido Dios, Cuanto poder habría si por tu gracia cada uno de nosotros procuraríamos hacer de nuestra iglesia lo que tu quieres que sea: tu presencia, aliento y vida de amor, en la comunidad y hasta los fines de la tierra; voz profética que se atreve a hablar contra los males de la injusticia, hambre, belicismo y pecados semejantes que están destruyendo el mundo... ¡Comienza conmigo!

Ruth Youngdahl Nelson, "A Grandma's Letters to God"

Los seguidores de Cristo han sido llamados a paz. . . . Y ellos no sólo deben tener paz sino que también deben hacer la paz. Y con este fin ellos renuncian a toda violencia y tumulto. En el caso de Cristo, nada se gana con tales métodos. . . . Sus discípulos preservan la paz escogiendo soportar ellos mismos el sufrimiento envés de causar el mismo a otros. Ellos preservan el compañerismo cuando otros hubieran optado por la ruptura. Ellos renuncian al odio y a lo incorrecto. Al hacer esto, vencen el mal con el bien, y establecen la paz de Dios en medio de un mundo de guerra y odio.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "The Cost of Discipleship,"
(asesinado por los nazis en 1945 por su apoyo a los judíos y su oposición a Hitler)

Si somos honestos, encontramos la tentación de venganza en nuestros propios corazones. Sin embargo sabemos que la primera verdadera víctima de la violencia es el mismo autor de la acción. Es verdad lo que dijo Gandhi: Ojo por ojo sólo resulta en dos ciegos. Ya que el militarismo y terrorismo presionan nuestra forma de vida más intensamente, necesitamos apoyarnos el uno al otro en el riesgo del amor incondicional, traduciendo esto en acciones concretas dentro el ámbito social y político como también en nuestras relaciones interpersonales. Sólo de esta manera podemos contribuir para romper el espiral de violencia y agrandar y alentar nuestra esperanza. Sólo de esta manera podemos ser hijos de Dios y discípulos de Jesús.

Mary Ellen Jegen

Service/ Song/Peace Meditation from Craig Watts, Disciples Peace Fellowship:

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as a people called together in need of light in a darkened world, in need of hope in a despairing world, in need of harmony in a conflicted world.

People: We come trusting in the God who shines upon us in the One who is the Light of the world, the hope of humanity and the peace that resolves our hostile conflicts.

Leader: Let us open our lives to working of the God whose desire is to mend hurtful divisions and heal our warring madness.

People: As we lift our hearts and voices in praise may the God of peace be with us to transform us into a people of peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In our brokenness, hear our prayer, O God.

People: Our God, we stand before you in our need, confessing that we have resisted your way of humble love. We have celebrated the pride of place and race. We have supported causes that advance the interests of those who are most like ourselves to the neglect of those who are less familiar to us. We have judged ourselves as noble and good while we have assumed the worst of those who are different from us and whose needs are in conflict with our desires. We have helped build walls of animosity rather than bridges of understanding. Forgive us, we pray and make us become the people you want us to be. Amen

Leader: In the name Jesus Christ who is our peace, your sins are forgiven!

OFFERTORY MEDITATION

Beyond number are the times that we have heard the words, "God so loved the world that he gave..." You don't need me to finish saying the words of the passage for them to be heard in your mind. God gave. It is the nature of love to give. As we are so often told, "God is love." God as the eternal lover is the continual giver who sustains us with numberless blessings.

When love is lacking, so, too, is giving absent. Instead the hunger to have takes over and the impulse to possess overwhelms more gracious drives. This leads to engage in destructive competition, and at the extreme, deadly conflict. We have been called to love like God and to

be generous as God has been generous to us. Certainly we give to support the work and ministry of the church.

But that is not the only reason we give. In the very practice of giving we are being shaped by God to be a certain kind of people, not a people who allow possessiveness to control us and put us at odds with others but a people who are willing to relinquish possessions for the sake of God and others, fostering peace in the world. With these things in mind, let us give.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We come to this table at the invitation of the Lord. That invitation is the only thing that can qualify us to take a place before the bread and the cup of communion. There is no special place at this table for those who imagine themselves morally or spiritually superior. There is no special place for those whose race might privilege them in other circumstances. There is no special place for those whose wealth gives them advantages in the rest of the world. There is no special place for those whose nationality fills them with pride as they view other nations. Nothing counts here but the invitation of the One who loved with nonviolent love so radically that he ended up on a cross.

At this table those things that set us apart fall away. We come as one people, beloved people, brothers and sister, flawed but cherished before God. We come because the Lord wants to be near to us and wants us to be near to one another as we celebrate all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ. In mystical communion we share this meal, not only with those who are under this same roof with us, but also with those throughout the world and throughout the ages who are the body of Christ. Let us welcome one another as we eat and drink together.

BENEDICTION

May the God of love and peace go with you into the world that is so often filled with conflict and war so that you may stand in the strength of love and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

THANKS for the NEW BORN KING (song for worship)

Give thanks all for the new born king
Whose royalty's not found in a crown
Nor power the sort that armies make
By driving others to the ground.

Refrain:

So, let us joyfully welcome his coming
While praising his name, praising his name.
And let us happily welcome the peace
that he brings with his reign,
brings with his reign evermore.

Give thanks all for the new born king
Who walks among the weak and poor
And lifts the fallen to their feet,
Rejecting deadly force and war.

Give thanks all for the new born king
Who conquerors by the power of love
And brings to nothing mighty powers
While being gentle as a dove.

Craig M. Watts

Reading for growth and inspiration on Peace:

Read for personal and professional growth. Invite colleagues or parents to join you. In addition to the fine books described above, here are four terrific new publications:

Peace Is the Way, edited by Walter Wink, is a very rich and perceptive collection of brief essays on nonviolence (Orbis, 2000, \$20). Also check out [Nonviolence for the Violent - Walter Wink](http://www.lutheranpeace.org/) - video series on Lutheran Peace Fellowship website: <http://www.lutheranpeace.org/>

Martin Luther King, Jr.: Spirit-Led Prophet, by Richard Deats is a brief, well-written biography emphasizing the spiritual roots of King's activity and writing (New City, 2000, \$12).

The Powers That Be (Doubleday, 1999, \$13) concise version of Walter Wink's classic book, Engaging the Powers (Augsburg Fortress, \$23), both are remarkably rich in stories and insight.

Transforming Violence, edited by Robert and Judy Zimmerman Herr is an fine anthology covering a range of options (Herald, 1999, \$13)

Waging Peace in Our Schools by Linda Lantieri and Janet Patti is an excellent overview on the subject (Beacon, 1996, \$12)

CALLS TO WORSHIP AND ACTION

Leader: The spirit of violence seeks to cloak our world in darkness, defining the "other" as enemy, justifying fear and destruction of life.

People: But the flame of peace refuses to be extinguished, revealing the common humanity of all.

Leader: Tears, pain, grief and loss unite us, forming us into one family wrapped in the warmth of God's spirit.

People: The flame of peace calls us to remember, to join back together into one community all who have been affected by war.

Leader: We remember those who have died, those injured and those who have lived but are haunted by memories.

People: We remember those who shed tears and live in grief because of the loss of loved ones, those who have fought and those who have protested.

Leader: We remember the many innocent people who have suffered deeply.

People: May we not forget the faceless and invisible victims our policies and actions have created throughout the world.

Leader: May our remembering not lead us to despair but, rather, to hope.

People: The light of God's peace is bright! May its warmth enter our hearts and its light open our eyes so that we may claim and embrace one another as brothers and sisters, sons and daughters.

Leader: Together, with the help of God, we can heal and transform the world.

All: May it be so. Amen. (UMC)

A Litany for Peace (in Spanish)

Oración de Apertura: O Dios, tu voluntad es sostener al cielo y a la tierra en una unidad de paz. Que el propósito de tu gran amor brille sobre el desperdicio de nuestras iras y penas. Pon paz en tu Iglesia, paz entre las naciones, paz en nuestras comunidades, paz en nuestros hogares, y paz en nuestros corazones. Amen

Lector: ¿Tienes una visión del shalom de Dios?

Todos: "Vivan en armonía los unos con los otros; compartan penas y alegrías, practiquen el amor fraternal, sean compasivos y humildes. No devuelvan mal por mal ni insulto por insulto; más bien bendigan, porque para esto fueron llamados." (1 Pedro 3:8-9)

Lector: ¿Tienes una visión de la pacificación cristiana?

Todos: "'Guarda tu espada,' le dijo Jesús, 'porque los que a hierro matan, a hierro mueren.'" (Mateo 26:52)

Lector: ¿Tienes una visión de comunidad cristiana?

Todos: "Ya no hay judío ni griego, esclavo ni libre, hombre ni mujer, sino que todos ustedes son

uno solo en Cristo Jesús.” (Gálatas 3:28)

Lector: ¿Tienes una visión del cristiano en el mundo?

Todos: “El Señor Dios le dice a Su siervo, ‘Yo el Señor, te he llamado para cumplir mi justicia sobre la tierra...’” (Isaías 42:6)

Lector: ¿Tienes una visión de la manera que Jesús maneja el conflicto?

Todos: “Ustedes han oído que se dijo, 'Ama a tu prójimo y odia a tu enemigo.' Pero yo les digo: 'Amen a sus enemigos y oren por quienes los persiguen.'” (Mateo 5:43-48) “Que busque la paz y la siga.” (Salmo 34: 14, 1 Pedro 3:11)

Lector: ¿Tienes una visión de liderazgo cristiano?

Todos: “Jesús les dijo, "Los reyes de las naciones oprimen a sus súbditos...No sea así entre ustedes. Al contrario, el mayor debe comportarse como el menor, y el que manda como el que sirve.” (Lucas 22:24-27)

Lector: ¿Tienes una visión de discipulado cristiano?

Todos: “No se conformen a este mundo, sino sean transformados.... Vivan en armonía el uno con el otro.... No paguen a nadie mal por mal.... Si tu enemigo tuviere hambre, dale de comer.... No seas vencido de lo malo, sino vence con el bien el mal.” (Romanos 12:2ff)

Lector: ¿Haz vislumbrado la visión de Dios?

Todos: “De modo que si alguno esta en Cristo, nueva criatura es: las cosas viejas pasaron ¡he aquí todas son hechas nuevas! Y todo esto proviene de Dios, quien nos reconcilió consigo mismo por Cristo y nos dio el ministerio de la reconciliación.” (2 Corintios 5:18-19)

Lector: ¿Haz vislumbrado la esperanza que hay en Dios?

Todos: “Y me alegraré con Jerusalén, y me gozaré con mi pueblo; y nunca más se oirán en ella voz de lloro, ni voz de clamor.” (Isaías 65:19) (Lutheran Peace Fellowship)

PRAYERS:

O God of peace, we pray for the faith to be a

hopeful people, the heart to be a loving

people and the strength to work for justice.

We pray for a world where peace with

justice will triumph over fear and

oppression. Help us, O God, to live our

prayers today. Amen. (UMC)

Prayers for International Day of Prayer for Peace (Sunday nearest September 21) drawn from international sources, downloadable at: <http://overcomingviolence.org/en/decade-to-overcome-violence/about-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for/resources.html>

[A collection of prayers from Africa - 2010](#)

[A collection of prayers from the Caribbean - 2009](#)

[A collection of prayers from the Pacific - 2008](#)

[A collection of prayers from Europe - 2007](#)

[A collection of prayers from Latin America - 2006](#)

[A collection of prayers for peace - 2005](#)

[A collection of prayers for peace - 2004](#)