

International Day of Peace

Loving God and embracing others

Worship resources

The International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, is dedicated specifically to the absence of war and violence. The theme being used by the United Nations this year is “End racism. Build peace.” According to the UN General Assembly’s **2022 theme declaration**, peace requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race. Congregations can choose to celebrate and pray for peace on Sunday, Sept. 25, or another Sunday.

As detailed in the **2022 Global Peace Index**, investments in global peace initiatives are insignificant in comparison to military expenditures. Peace initiatives are programs, interventions, activities or mechanisms which seek to improve relationships, break cycles of violence and address root causes of conflict. The intent behind these initiatives is to prevent, reduce or aid in the recovery from violent conflict. Nonviolent peacebuilding integrates a focus on human dignity with a commitment to reconciliation with others, ourselves and God. Peacebuilding seeks justice and involves a transformation of structures and systems to provide safety and well-being for all.

Globally and here in the U.S., Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) addresses the root causes of violence by supporting work in reconciliation, environmental protection and justice, restorative and transitional justice, human rights, economic fairness and opportunity, early warning and response, peace education, advocacy, trauma awareness and health systems.

un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace

visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GPI-2022-web.pdf



Naomi Ugede, staff of Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPRT), facilitates a peace club training at Government Science Secondary School in Wase, Plateau State, Nigeria. Peace clubs were started in 2012 an effort to curb violent conflict in the region. MCC Photo/ Chindoena an Iliya Dalem



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Call to worship

O God, you made us in your image and likeness,
But we are frail and distracted from your unfailing love.
Your divine assurance empowers us to overcome evil.
Forgive us our sins and show us your mercy.

You conquered damnation and renewed the earth,
your life-giving spirit transforms our weakness,
and you bless us with peace.
Forgive us our sins and show us your mercy.

You give us a peace which you alone can give,
a peace that encompasses love, compassion, mercy and self-giving.
We are yours in justice seeking, in peacemaking and in right
relationship with you, creation and others.
Bless us with the peace which you alone give.

Transform our hearts and attitudes toward each other.
May we respect our differences and constantly thank you
for the diversity.
You made all things good and beautiful; may your will be done.
Renew us and fill us with your presence.

Bring peace to our chaotic world.
We offer you our obedience,
and submit ourselves to you in all things.
Reconcile all things to yourself.

Songs

VT 149; VT 6; VT 706; VT 787; VT 798

Scripture readings

Amos 5:21-24; Psalm 24; 1 John 1:5-10; Matthew 5:3-12

Intercessions

VT 996

Concluding prayer

VT 1034

VT = *Voices Together* hymnal, Harrisonburg, VA: MennoMedia, 2020.

Youth peace workers are trained to be peacebuilders in their families and communities through MCC's partner, Social Works Center, in Sirajgang, Bangladesh. MCC Photo/Dave Klassen.

