



September 21

We join together in prayer as we  
commemorate  
The U. N. International Day of Peace

**International Day of Peace**

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The theme for the International Day of Peace in 2019 is “Climate Action for Peace”. The theme draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world.

Climate change causes clear threats to international peace and security. Natural disasters displace three times as many people as conflicts, forcing millions to leave their homes and seek safety elsewhere. The salinization of water and crops is endangering food security, and the impact on public health is escalating. The growing tensions over resources and mass movements of people are affecting every country on every continent.

**Prayer**

*O God, your creative love brought forth our world,  
once a garden where humans could see beauty and goodness.  
But our eyes do not always see the sacredness of Creation.  
We do not always remember that it is Gift  
given so that all humans may live and flourish.  
Inattention can change the world.  
Even mighty glaciers weep now.  
Lifestyles create pollution that blot out the sun.  
The very skies above us are threatened.  
Seas rise and whole peoples lose their homes.  
O God, we ask you to  
Call us to renewal and to defend and care for all creation.  
Call us to solidarity with Mother Earth and all her creatures.  
Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains with us.  
Give us new spiritual energy to become active in loving the world  
through our daily lives,  
Give us new voices to speak out for environmental solidarity.  
Bless us with a love of your Creation  
so that we may glimpse your Eden once again.*

*Adapted from a prayer by Jane Deren*

*“Climate Change is the battle of our lives, and a race against time. We can win -- and we must. Solutions are in our hands: tax pollution, not people; stop subsidizing fossil fuels; stop building new coal plants by 2020; focus on a green economy, not a grey economy. I count on your continued support as we strive to build a world where we can live every day in harmony with the environment and with each other. -- Secretary-General António Guterres*



**CLIMATE ACTION**  
for peace

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE  
21 SEPTEMBER 2019

un.org/peaceday | #peaceday #climateaction