



September 21

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

Every year on the **International Day of Peace**, the United Nations calls on the peoples of the world to remember their common humanity and join together to build a future free of strife. It calls on all of us to observe a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, and to honor a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day.

This year's theme – *the Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace* – highlights how ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring broadly shared prosperity all contribute to global harmony. SDG #16 specifically focuses on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”. Yet peace runs like a thread through all 17 of the Goals. When we all work together, we can make peace possible, starting with 24 hours of peace on September 21.

Ban Ki-moon



Prayer

God of Nonviolence,
Thank you for the gift of your love and your peace.
Give me the grace to live the life of Gospel nonviolence
that I might be a faithful follower of the nonviolent Jesus.

Send the Holy Spirit of nonviolence upon me that I will
love everyone, from my neighbor to my enemies,
that I may see you in everyone, and know everyone as
my sister and brother, and never hurt or fear anyone
again.

Make me an instrument of your peace,
that I might give my life in the struggle for justice and
disarmament;
that I may work for the abolition of war, poverty and
nuclear weapons;
that I may always respond with love and never retaliate
with violence;
that I may accept suffering in the struggle of justice and
never inflict suffering or death on others;
that I may live more simply, in solidarity with the world's
poor,
that I may defend the poor and resist systemic injustice
and institutionalized violence,
that I may always choose life and resist the forces of
death.

Guide me on the Way of nonviolence.
Help me to speak the truth of peace, to practice
boundless compassion, to radiate unconditional love, to
forgive everyone who ever hurt me, to embody your
nonviolence, to walk with you in contemplative peace,
to be your beloved servant and friend.

Disarm my heart, and I shall be your instrument to disarm
other hearts and the world.

Lead me, God of nonviolence, with the whole human
family, into your nonviolent reign of justice and peace
where there is no more war, no more injustice, no more
poverty, no more nuclear weapons, no more violence.
I ask this in the name of the nonviolent Jesus, our brother
and our peace.

Amen.

John Dear