

# PEACE SUNDAY RESOURCES

**THEME:**

**Destroying the Barrier,**

*The dividing wall of hostility*

# **PEACE SUNDAY**

**December 4, 2011**

**Written and Compiled by:**

**Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister  
University Christian Church, San Diego, CA  
on behalf of Disciples Peace Fellowship,  
edited and revised by Jon Lacey, October 2011**

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## **USE OF THE PEACE SUNDAY PACKET MATERIALS**

The 2011 Peace Sunday packet is presented in the same format as in previous years, with a few added features. All of the resources can be easily copied for use in your Sunday worship

services as well as with your church member families and friends. All materials may be copied as much as you want.

A theme for 2011 shared with several other religious peace fellowships is "Destroying the Barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." It is based upon Ephesians 2.11-22: "For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier..."

Jesus broke down walls between people throughout his ministry, beginning when he chose disciples who were from groups who hated each other. Christ made a habit of scampering over and around cultural walls. He spoke to people society told him not to, went where he should not have, said what the religious leaders of his time dared not.

At the Nashville Assembly, during the Faithful Conversations, we practiced behaviors leading to peaceful understanding. Peace Sunday 2011 gives us yet another opportunity to "make" peace, not just talk about it.

Jon Lacey, DPF Program Staff, (volunteer)

Most of these materials, unless otherwise noted, have been written and/or compiled by Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister, University Christian Church, San Diego, CA on behalf of the Disciples Peace Fellowship. They are designed for use on Peace Sunday, December 10, 2006 and following years, which is the Second Sunday of Advent, but can certainly be adapted for use throughout Advent and on into 2011-12..

## **A PASTORAL LETTER FOR PEACE SUNDAY 2011**

*Dear Friends,*

*As we gather to worship during this Advent Season we are once again reminded that Jesus came to us as the Prince of Peace. His words "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" call us to actively seek peace in our world. We are not called to be passive peace "wishers" or silent peace "hoppers" or even war "debaters." We as followers of Jesus Christ are called to be peace "makers."*

*Being called upon to be peace "makers" means that we are called to set about aggressively, imaginatively, and sacrificially to remove the causes of war and*

*to lay foundations upon which peace can be built. That's a huge task! It begins with each one of us!*

*I urge you to allow the information presented in this "Peace Packet" for Peace Sunday, 2011, to help you discover ways by which you as individuals and as congregations can work "imaginatively and sacrificially" to help shape a life and a world in which true Shalom can become a reality in our midst. It is attainable! For we believe that "With God, all things are possible!"*

*If ever there was a time to recapture the hope, the joy, the resolve of the Christian faith, it is during this Advent season. I call upon each of you who claim the name of Christ, to join with me in doing all that we can to make peace a become a reality in our time!*

*Yours for Peace,*

*Sharon Watkins  
General Minister and President*

# LITURGICAL RESOURCES FOR PEACE SUNDAY

Written and Compiled by:  
Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister  
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on behalf of Disciples Peace Fellowship

## A CALL TO WORSHIP

**One/** Christ sets before us this day life and death and calls for us to choose life that we and our children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:15)

**All/ We accept life! So teach us to live!**

**One/** Christ sets before us this day the challenge to seek peace and to pursue it. (Ps. 34:14)

**All/ We accept the challenge of peace! So enable us to pursue it!**

**One/** Christ sets before us this day the call to be peacemakers. (Matthew 5:9)

**All/ We accept the call to be peacemakers! So help us to make peace a reality!**

## A CALL TO WORSHIP

**One/** We gather as a community of Christian faith on this Peace Sunday;

**All/ To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a suffering world;**

**One/** We gather to embody God's love for all people;

**All/ To hear and give voice to creation's cry for justice and peace;**

**One/** We gather to name and confront the powers of evil within and among us;

**All/ To repent of our silence and complicity with the powers of chaos and death;**

**One/** We gather to join with the oppressed and troubled people of the world in the struggle for liberation and peace;

**All/ To work for justice, healing and wholeness of life;**

**One/** We gather to embrace the unity of God's people and Christ's church;

**All/ To discern and celebrate the present and coming reign of God's Shalom!**

## AN INVOCATION

God, we ask that we may be aware of your presence in our midst on this Peace Sunday. Enable us to be aware of the stark realities that we experience in our world, to ask hard questions, to accept difficult responsibilities as we consider what it means for each one of us to be peacemakers in the kind of a world in which we live. Amen.

## A PRAYER OF PETITION

You, O God, are the eternal Source of peace, your most precious gift to your creation. Grant that peace to us this day. Enable us to be its messenger to all the peoples of the world. Bless the nations of the world so that each of your peoples may become strongholds for peace, advocating for peace within each nation and calling for peace within world bodies. Strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship among the inhabitants of all lands. Plant seeds of virtue in every mind. Plant seeds of hope in every heart. Plant seeds of love in every life. Plant seeds of peace in every soul. We praise you, O God, for being the great giver of peace. Amen.

## A PASTORAL PRAYER

The headlines this day scream at us, O God! They tell us of things that we don't like to hear: fighting and war and death. They show us things that we don't like to see: maimed bodies, twisted rubble, lost lives. None of this seems like it fits within this Advent season of hope and love and joy and peace, as we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

You, O God, are the Creator and Sustainer of life. It is you who created us. By your prophets you have proclaimed your desires that we should "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you." We confess that we live in times in which people define justice by their own standards rather than yours; a time when mean-spiritedness often takes the place of kindness, a time when arrogance and power, rather than humility and love, motivates us.

We pray, O God, that you would pour out your Holy Spirit upon your world that we may be led to true Shalom; that your justice, true kindness and humility may reign. We ask for your forgiveness for whatever part that we may have played in the nurturing of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Purge these things from our souls so that we may be true ambassadors for peace.

Help us, O God, to work with love through all that we do, so that you can transform our anger and jealousy, our hatred, resentment and prejudice into holiness and love. Enable us to embrace one another in the kind of embrace that you have shown us through your love, so that we might see in each of our relationships – those both like us and unlike us – your holy relationship of love, acceptance, peace and Shalom. Amen.

## A COMMUNION MEDITATION

It is Christ who gives us the example, the words, and the power to live at peace. May Christ begin with you and me in these quiet moments of communion, that peace may come through our living in the midst of the world. May we allow ourselves to become peace makers as we contemplate the gift of Christ's peace, made evident as we gather around this Table.

## A BENEDICTION

God of mercy and peace: forgive us, renew us, and use us to hasten the day of truce, if not of peace; of tolerance, if not of love; of hope if not of reality; of oneness, if not of Shalom. For we ask this in the name of the one who commanded us to love without limit, Jesus, the Christ. Amen

### **Additional Liturgies and Worship Materials you may find useful from previous Peace Sundays:**

Liturgy written by Rebecca Littlejohn for First Christian Church of Anniston, Alabama for Advent 2009.

**\*Hymn of Anticipation**                      "When God Is a Child"                      # 132  
(all)

**\*Call to Worship** (Please remain standing if able.)                      Julie  
Nix, Liturgist

L: Friends, we are here to prepare our hearts to welcome the Prince of Peace.

**But our hearts are not very peaceful; worry, anger, and hurt trouble us.**

In this place, we remind one another of the peace that God offers.

**We long for the innocence of children, yet we allow our diversity to divide us and refuse to embrace our common humanity.**

Our unity does not come from conformity; God's peace is deeper than superficial agreement and polite bromides.

**Let us love beyond labels and celebrate a peace with power.**

L: As we prepare for the Christ Child, let us become witnesses to Christ's peace.

**P: Let us open our hearts to the Spirit that makes us one!**

**Prayer of Confession** (Please be seated)

Liturgist

God of Everlasting Peace, you call us to unity of spirit, and yet you have made us so different — so varied in perspective, gifts and experience. Our world seems so divided, and those divisions threaten even our little community. Too often, we allow them to overwhelm the truth that we celebrate here: that our unity comes from you and nothing can separate us from it; that we are called to love the stranger and the enemy; that your Son came to show us a way of love beyond all prejudices. Forgive us when we give into the ways of the world, and send us your Spirit that we might be a brighter witness to the deep peace you offer us in Christ. Hear our prayers now as we silently confess our sins.

*(Time of Silent Confession)*

**Lighting of the Candle for Hope and Peace**

Acolytes

**Assurance of Pardon** (Luke 1:78-79)

Liturgist

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” We are forgiven.

**Sung Response**

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

# 34

*Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

Liturgy written by Rebecca Littlejohn for First Christian Church of Anniston, Alabama, for Advent 2010.

In the following liturgy, a different verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is used each week, to match the themes of the Advent wreath. They go in this order: Advent 1 – verse 1, Advent 2 – verse 4, Advent 3 – verse 2, Advent 4 – verse 3.

**\*Opening Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#119

(v. 4)

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\*Litany of Preparation** (Please remain standing if able.)

Ken

Whisenant, Liturgist

L: People of God, this is a season of anticipation!

**We come with hope, eagerly awaiting the coming of Christ.**

Friends, let us prepare our hearts to welcome our God.

**May we be people of peace, bringing wholeness to a fragmented world.**

Brothers and sisters, what do you seek here?

**We come to experience and share the joy of new life in Christ.**

L: Followers of Jesus, it is time, once again, to tell the story that is new each time.

**Let us give thanks to God for the gift of Love Incarnate, Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.**

L: As we come to worship, let us free ourselves of our transgressions, by offering our repentant hearts to God, trusting in his eternal mercy.

**P: O God, hear our prayers as we silently confess our sins.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” *(Luke 1:78-79)*

**P: We are forgiven. Glory to God in the highest!**

L: As the angels sang, let us lift our voices this day.

**P: Like the shepherds, may we leave all else behind and seek Christ**

L: As the wise men did, let us bring whatever gifts we can offer.

**P: Like the apostles, may we become witnesses to the life-giving grace of God.**

\*Candle-Lighting Hymn  
(v. 1-2)

“One Candle Is Lit”

#128

\*Lighting of Advent Candles for Hope & Peace

# THE LECTIONARY PASSAGES

# FOR PEACE SUNDAY

## Paraphrases of the Scripture Lections for the 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B - Sunday 4 December 2011

Lections from The Revised Common Lectionary.

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\* **Isaiah 40: 1-11**

Your God gives the order:

“Comfort my people.  
..... Comfort them.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
..... cry out and tell her that she has served her time;  
tell her that she has paid her penalty;  
..... that the Lord has extracted the pound of flesh  
..... due for the crimes she committed.”

A voice cries out:  
“Get the road through the wilderness ready.  
..... The LORD is coming! Clear the track!  
Straighten out the road through the desert,  
..... so it is ready for our God.

Fill the potholes, bridge the valleys,  
..... cut through the mountains to level the grade.  
Where the going is rough, smooth it out;  
..... lay a new surface over the old corrugations.

Then the LORD will come,  
..... radiant in glory.  
Everyone on earth will see it together,  
..... we have the LORD’S word on it.”  
A voice says, “Make the announcement!”  
..... And I replied, “What announcement?”

“Announce that people are as fickle as the weather;  
..... all of them, about as constant as a cut flower.

The weather does one thing one day, and another the next;  
..... one breath from the LORD and flowers fade and wilt;  
..... no kidding, all people are as fickle as that.

The weather sweeps through and is gone;  
..... the flower fades and is tossed out;  
but every word our God says  
..... stands rock solid for all time.

Take the stand where the whole of God’s city will hear you,  
..... and broadcast the message everyone has been waiting for.  
You are the bearer of good news for God’s people,  
..... so open your mouth and don’t hold back;  
..... there’s nothing to be scared of; just go for it!  
Broadcast it through all the cities in the land,  
..... saying, ‘Here is your God!’

Look, the Lord GOD comes with a show of strength,

.....arms punching the air in triumph.  
The Lord carries the spoils of victory,  
.....the rewards of a job well done.

Like a farmer hand-rearing the lambs,  
.....the LORD will gather us in loving arms,  
cuddle us close,  
.....and gently lead us where we need to go.

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\* **Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13**

LORD, you smiled on your land  
.....and brought back the good times for your people.

You struck out the record of our guilt  
.....and pardoned all we had done wrong.

We are eager to hear all you have to say, LORD God,  
.....for your words bring peace and wellbeing  
.....to those who stick with you  
.....and leave behind their foolish ways.

Surely for all who respect you,  
.....the life you saved us for is within reach.  
.....Our land will be ablaze with your presence.

What a life it will be!  
.....Love and loyalty will link arms;  
.....justice and peace will become lovers.

Faithfulness will sprout and reach for the sky;  
.....integrity will beam down on the earth.

You will give us every good thing, LORD,  
.....and the land will give bumper crops.

Justice and integrity will spring up as you approach,  
.....lining the road to welcome you among us.

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\* **2 Peter 3: 8-15a**

.....My dear friends, keep in mind the fact that the Lord is not bound by the same sort of time lines as we are. The Lord can do more in a day than we could do in a thousand years, and yet to the Lord, a thousand years pass like a mere day. Some people think that if the Lord was going to come in glory as he promised, he would have done it by now, but really, we should be thankful that he is not in a rush. The Lord wants everyone to turn their lives around and survive, and he is willing to hold back a bit to give them the chance. But he won't hold back forever. The day of the Lord will hit without warning like a redback in a dark dunny. Then, with a deafening roar, the sky will be destroyed and there will be a fiery meltdown of the galaxies. The earth and everything that goes on here will be totally exposed for all to see.

.....So, if everything is headed for this total meltdown, how should we be living here and now? We should be living lives that are utterly dedicated to God and which are patterned on the way God does things. We should be in a state of patient readiness, constantly working to turn around anything that might be causing God to hold back the coming of that ultimate day. Even though that day will see the universe will go up in flames, vaporising the sky and melting down the cosmic elements, we know that God has promised us a renewed earth — a place worth waiting for — a place where justice and integrity will be at home.

.....So then, my dear friends, while you are waiting for all this to happen, do your utmost to make sure that when it does, the Lord will find you living in peace, and without even a hint of corruption. As for how much longer the Lord will hold back; how ever long it is, you can think of it as a sign of patience and an opportunity for even more to be saved.

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\* **Mark 1: 1-8**

This is the great news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The prophet Isaiah had already written about the opening scene:

“Take note: I am sending my messenger ahead of you  
..... to blaze the trail for your arrival.

In the desert a voice is shouting:

‘The Lord is coming!

..... Get the road ready.

..... Clear the track, straighten it out for him.’”

..... John the baptiser showed up in the desert preaching to the people. He called them to be baptised, to completely turn their lives around and return to God. This, he told them, would result in the forgiveness of sins. Everyone came flocking to John from Jerusalem and from all the rural districts of Judea. They owned up to their wrongdoing and were baptised by John in the Jordan River, promising to mend their ways.

..... John was dressed in rough clothes made of camel hair and animal skins. He lived on bush tucker — grasshoppers and wild honey. This is the guts of his message: “After me

comes the One who is way out of my league — I wouldn't even qualify to get down on my knees and lick his boots. I'm only baptising you with water, but he'll baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

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**LaughingBird.net is an imaginative Australian local church site for liturgical/worship renewal. Nathan Nettleton is the pastor.**

# **ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING**

**SERVICE AND  
LITANY  
FOR  
PEACE SUNDAY**

**Written and Compiled by:  
Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister  
University Christian Church, San Diego, CA  
on behalf of Disciples Peace Fellowship**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH  
CANDLE FOR PEACE**

**HYMN:**

“O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines”

# 711 Chalice Hymnal, vs. 1

or

“I Bind My Heart This Tide”

# 350 Chalice Hymnal, vs. 1,2

### SCRIPTURE READING:

“He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid.” - Micah 4:3-4

and/or

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” -Matthew 5:9

and/or

“True justice is the harvest reaped by peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.”

- James 3:18 (New English Bible, Oxford University Press, 1970)

### ADVENT LITANY OF PEACE:

**ONE/** God, you make peace shine out in our midst. Let your light of peace guide us toward a path of justice and freedom for all the nations of your creation;

**ALL/ God, may all nations move toward peace through our words and actions.**

**ONE/** God, you call us to give aid to those who find themselves victims of injustice and violence. Let your light of peace guide us toward a path of peace for all those our lives can touch;

**ALL/ God, may we become peacemakers as we offer hope to all those in need.**

**ONE/** God, you have entrusted to us the gift of your love. Let your light of peace guide us toward a path of love for all of your creation;

**ALL/ God, make us instruments of your peace. Cause us to be your peacemakers!**

### MEDITATION THOUGHTS:

As we prepare to light this Advent Candle of Peace we are strongly aware that peace does not reign in our individual lives, in the life of our nation, or in any of the nations of our world. The natural world is being destroyed through our abuse. Wars rage and people's lives are being destroyed even as we gather in this quiet service of worship. People everywhere are experiencing injustice and are living daily with violence. Women and children are being abused even in our own neighborhoods.

We wonder if it will ever cease! We wonder if the reign of peace that was spoken of by the Prophets of old and by Jesus will ever become a reality! But we do, somehow, cling to a hope that someday there will be peace in our lives and peace in the world.

As every year during this Advent season, the Christ Child beckons us to prepare for a re-birth of hope, love and peace into our lives. With the help of God's Spirit, and with an understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus, we can find the courage, the confidence and the power to work for peace – to become peacemakers in our time.

We are called, as the People of God, to be peacemakers in God's name! We are called to trust, to risk, and to love, seeking to bring peace and justice to all of humankind, beginning with ourselves, our family, our congregation, and moving into our community and to the farthest places of the planet. For "True justice is the harvest that is reaped, by peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace." (paraphrase of James 3:18)

May we experience anew that call to be peacemakers as we light the Advent Candle on this Peace Sunday!

#### **LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE:**

(use a child to light the candle, helped by an adult, if needed)

#### **PRAYER:**

Spirit of Peace and Love, we praise you for the multitudes of women, men, young people and children, down through the ages and even to this very day, who have and who are seeking to be witnesses of peace, trust and reconciliation throughout the world. Help us to prepare ourselves inwardly to place our trust in the mystery of faith and the wonders of joy, celebration and hope that we, too, may be creators of your peace! We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen!

#### **HYMN OF RESPONSE AND COMMITMENT:**

"Restless Weaver"

# 658 Chalice Hymnal, vs. 2,4

or

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"

# 677 Chalice Hymnal

# **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES AND "QUOTES" ON PEACE**

**Compiled by:**  
**Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister**  
**University Christian Church, San Diego, CA**  
**on behalf of Disciples Peace Fellowship**

## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES REGARDING PEACE**

**(All quotes are from the New Revised Standard Version Reference Bible,  
Zondervan Corporation, 1990, except as noted)**

## **OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES:**

- Exodus 20:13 - "You shall not murder."
- Leviticus 19:18 - "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- Leviticus 26:6 - "I will grant peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and no one shall make you afraid."
- Psalms 34:14 - "Seek peace, and pursue it."
- Psalms 85:8b - "...God will speak peace to God's people..."
- Psalms 85:10b - "...righteousness and peace will kiss each other."
- Psalms 120:6-7 - "Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace. I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war."
- Isaiah 2:4b - "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."
- Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace."
- Isaiah 11:6-9 - "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters over the sea."
- Isaiah 26:3 - "Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace – in peace because they trust in you."
- Isaiah 32: 16-18 - "Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."
- Jeremiah 6:14 - "They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying 'Peace, Peace,' when there is no peace."
- Jeremiah 29:11 - "Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare (Shalom) and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

- Ezekiel 34:25-29a - "I will make with them a covenant of peace . . . I will make them and the region around my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing...They shall no more be plunder for the nations...they shall live in safety, and no one shall make them afraid."
- Amos 5:24 - "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."
- Micah 4:3-4 - "He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid."
- Micah 6:8 - "He has told you...what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you God."

### **NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES:**

- Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."
- Matthew 5:21-22 - "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'you shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council..."
- Matthew 5:38-39 - "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer..."
- Matthew 5:43-44 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."
- Matthew 26:52 - "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword."
- Luke 1:79 - "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."
- Luke 6:27-28 - "...Love you enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you..."
- Luke 10:29-37 - (The story of the Good Samaritan)
- Luke 19:41-42 - "...If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace!"

- Luke 22:26 - "...the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves."
- John 14: 27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."
- Acts 2:1-17 - (The story of the Day of Pentecost)
- Romans 13:8-10 - "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law...Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."
- Romans 14:19 - "Let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building."
- 2 Corinthians 13:11 - "Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."
- Colossians 3:12-16 - "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body."
- I Thessalonians 5:12-24- "Be at peace among yourselves."
- James 3:18 - "True justice is the harvest reaped by peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace." (New English Bible, Oxford University Press, 1970)

## CHALLENGING QUOTES ON PEACE

“War is like a big machine that no one really knows how to run and when it gets out of control it ends up destroying the things you thought you were fighting for, and a lot of other things you kinda forgot you had.” - **Anonymous**

“It is more glorious to slay war with words, than humankind with steel; and it is true glory to secure peace by peaceful means.” - **Augustine**

“There is no Shalom if there is injustice, even if things seem peaceful on the surface.” - **Author Unknown**

“The death of a single human being is too heavy a price for the vindication of any principle, however sacred.” - **Daniel Berrigan**

“We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.” - **General Omar Bradley**

“Christianity stands or falls with its revolutionary protest against violence, arbitrariness and pride of power and with its plea for the weak. Christians are doing too little to make these points clear rather than too much. Christendom adjusts itself far too easily to the worship of power. Christians should give more offense, shock the world far more, that they are doing now. Christians should take a stronger stand in favor of the weak rather than considering first the possible right of the strong.” - **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, Sermon on II Corinthians 12:9

“The most staggering expression of the biblical vision is that we are children of a single family, members of a single tribe, heirs of a single hope, and bearers of a single destiny.” - **Walter Brueggeman**

“There is no dishonor in negotiation and no shame attached to striving for peace.” - **Ralph J. Bunche**

“For a great many years, as a soldier, I had a suspicion that war was a racket; not until I retired to civil life did I fully realize it. Now that I see the international war clouds gathering, as they are today, I must face it and speak out.” - Excerpt from a speech delivered in 1933, by **Major General Smedley Butler**, USMC: War Is A Racket

“Philosophy as well as religion teaches us that to conquer enemies is not the work of swords, nor lances, nor bows of steel. To conquer an enemy is to convert him into a friend. To do this all arms and modes of warfare are impotent, save the arms and ammunition of everlasting love.” - **Alexander Campbell**, July 4, 1830

“The Christian cannot participate in war since the precepts of Christianity positively inhibit war. The Author and Founder of the Christian religion has made it unlawful for His subjects to go to war – even for self-preservation.” - **Alexander Campbell**

“An elder Cherokee Native American was teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, ‘A fight is going on inside me...It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, pride and superiority. The other wolf stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. This same fight is going on inside of you and every other person too.’ They thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, ‘Which wolf will win?’ The old Cherokee simply replied...‘The one I feed.’” - **A Cherokee Tale, of unknown origin**

“Various peoples incite the passions of war by martial music; Christians employ only the Word of God, the instrument of peace.” - **Clement of Alexandria**, 220 CE

“The American people are not educated to wage peace. We are not prepared – educationally, emotionally, spiritually – for the important job that faces us, which is how to create a lasting design for peace. We haven’t been taught the basic principles by which peace can be created; we really haven’t been educated for the most important job in the history of the world.” - **Norman Cousins**

“The pioneers of a warless world are the youth that refuse military service.” - **Albert Einstein**

“War seems to me to be a mean, contemptible thing: I would rather be hacked in pieces than take part in such an abominable business. And yet so high, in spite of everything, is my opinion of the human race that I believe this bogey would have disappeared long ago, had the sound sense of the nations not been systematically corrupted by commercial and political interests acting through the schools and the Press.” - **Albert Einstein**

“Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and cooperation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace.” - **Dwight David Eisenhower**, 34<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, 1890-1969

“I maintain that all kinds of violence are the same. The violence of the soldier who kills, the revolutionary who assassinates; it is true also of economic violence – the violence of the privileged proprietor against his workers, of the ‘haves’ against the ‘have-nots’; the violence done in international economic relations between our societies and those of the third world; the violence done through powerful corporations which exploit the resources of a country that is unable to defend itself” - **Jacques Ellul**, French theologian/sociologist

“A wise rule would be to make up your mind on what you want: peace or war, and then get ready for what you want; for what is prepared for is what we shall get.” - **William Sumner Graham**, 1903

“Never think that war, no matter how necessary nor justified, is not a crime.” - **Ernest Hemingway**

“The most shocking fact about war is that its victims and its instruments are individual human beings, and that these individual beings are condemned by the monstrous conventions of politics to murder or be murdered in quarrels not their own.” - **Aldous Huxley**, English novelist and critic, 1894-1963

“War is an instrument entirely inefficient toward redressing wrong; and multiplies, instead of indemnifying losses.” - **Thomas Jefferson**

“Strike against war, for without you no battles can be fought! Strike against manufacturing shrapnel and gas bombs and all other tools of murder! Strike against preparedness that means death and misery to millions of human beings! Be not dumb, obedient slaves in an army of destruction! Be heroes in an army of construction!” - **Helen Keller**

“This way of settling differences is not just. This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation’s homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.” - **Martin Luther King**, 4 April 1967 at a meeting of Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York

“A true revolution of values will say of war, ‘This way of settling differences is not just.’...I call on Washington today, I call on every man and woman of goodwill all over America today: Take a stand on this issue. Tomorrow may be too late; a book may close. And I don’t know about you—I ain’t going to study war no more.” - **Martin Luther King**

“War: first, one hopes to win; then one expects the enemy to lose; then, one is satisfied that he too is suffering; in the end, one is surprised that everyone has lost.” - **Karl Kraus**, 1874–1936

“What a cruel thing is war: to separate and destroy families and friends, and mar the purest joys and happiness God has granted us in this world; to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors, and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world.” - **Robert E. Lee**, letter to his wife, 1864

“Peace is more important than all justice; and was not made for the sake of justice, but justice for the sake of peace.” - **Martin Luther**

“We who formally murdered one another now not only do not make war upon our enemies, but, that we may not lie or deceive our judges, gladly die confessing Christ.” - **Justin Martyr**, 165 CE

“We must devise a system in which peace is more rewarding than war.” - **Margaret Mead**

“I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask, ‘Mother, what was war?’ ” - **Eve Merriam**

“First they came for the Communists but I was not a Communist so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Socialists and the Trade Unionists but I was not one of them, so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Jews but I was not Jewish so I did not speak out. And when they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me.” - **Martin Niemöller**

“If a war be undertaken for the most righteous end, before the resources of peace have been tried and proved vain to secure it, that war has no defense, it is a national crime.” - **Charles Eliot Norton**

“Peacemaking is not an optional commitment. It is a requirement of our faith. We are called to be peacemakers, not by some movement of the moment, but by our Lord Jesus.” - **Pope John Paul**

“If you want peace, work for justice.” - **Pope Paul VI**

“All people can be peace workers. Whenever you bring harmony into any unpeaceful situation, you contribute to the total peace picture. Insofar as you have peace in your life, you reflect it into your surroundings and into your world.” - **The PEACE PILGRIM**

“When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?” - **Eleanor Roosevelt**

“War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives.” - **Cindy Sheehan**

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war, that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.” - **Danielle Wolfe**

# **CHILDREN'S RESOURCES ON PEACE**

**Written and Compiled by:  
Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister  
University Christian Church, San Diego, CA  
on behalf of Disciples Peace Fellowship**

**ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN**

## INDIVIDUAL CONTEMPLATION

Think of a person you have hurt or wronged. Consider how you can make things right with that person.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Brainstorm ways that the children feel are courageous or require courage in dealing with problems on the playground, in the park, or playing with friends. Many of the examples they give may be powerful demonstrations of peacemaking! Then ask each child to think about a problem that they are having with a friend or a classmate at school. Ask if a few of them would be willing to share the problem with the group (not using identifying names of the individuals). Ask the group to brainstorm ways that a person might consider in order to go about solving the problem in a peaceful way.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY

Read Isaiah 2:4 to the group. Ask each child to think about what the world would be like without war. Then ask them to share their thoughts with the whole group. Write the ideas down on newsprint as they are shared.

Provide each child with colored crayons and pieces of 8-1/2 X 11 paper and have them express their thoughts in a picture.

Collect the pictures and place them as a collage on a large piece of newsprint. Then hang the collage in the classroom.

## WORD SEARCH

How do you find PEACE? There are many things that help create peace in your homes, neighborhoods, and around the world. Look for the following words that are important in building peace:

<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>FAIRNESS</b>	<b>SHARING</b>	<b>ECOLOGY</b>	<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>
<b>LISTEN</b>	<b>FAITH</b>	<b>TRUST</b>	<b>CARE</b>	<b>VISION</b>
<b>HOPE</b>	<b>UNITY</b>	<b>WORK</b>	<b>LOVE</b>	<b>SHALOM</b>

Q B J I H L N W Y O B I R K V T U A P U  
Y R S T O M D S S J A F V E C O L O G Y  
U T U L P R C F H O Z A E N F L K L I M  
I U N D E R S T A N D I N G C B V F S T  
T K I Q Y E H W L U A R E W T R U S T B  
V R T J V W A L O Y L N Q B Y S I W E J  
L S Y D C A R E M I H E A L T H A E L F  
W A E L M F I B E K U S N G P J V Q O Y  
P V I S I O N T K R F S A R B O M J V Q  
J P J M E Q G Z H Q N M E K L I S T E N  
L N W O R K C I F A I T H W R L M O V B

**Peace Books for Children \***

## **Courage**

***The Goat Lady***, Jane Bregoli, Tilbury House, 0-88448-260-x. An elderly lady provides goat milk to families who need it and also sends extra goat kids to those in need in poor countries. The rest of the community finally recognizes Noelle's kindness and courage.

***Martin's Big Words***, Doreen Rappaport, Hyperion Books for Children, 0-78680714-8, 2001. A narrative of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. incorporating "big words" used by his parents and the Bible to inform his young life, followed by King's own words during the civil rights movement and throughout his life. Includes a bibliography of books for young readers.

***The Story of Ruby Bridges***, Robert Cole, Scholastic, Inc., 0-590-57281-4  
The faith and courage of Ruby Bridges, the first black child to attend an all-white elementary school, carries her through a storm of hatred and prejudice.

## **Ethnic Diversity**

***Whoever You Are***, Mem Fox, Voyager Books, 0-15216406-5. Children all over the world are just like the reader on the inside, even though they speak different languages and look different on the outside.

***All the Colors of the Earth***, Sheila Hamanoka, Mulberry Books, 0-688-17062-5. Celebrates the colors of children and the colors of love.

## **Friendship and Sharing Resources**

***The Doorbell Rang***, Pat Hutchens, Mulberry Books, 0-688-09234-9. Ma has made a dozen delicious cookies. It should be plenty for her two children. But then the doorbell rings....

***Don't Fidget a Feather***, Erica Silverman, Aladdin/Simon and Schuster, 0-689-81967-6. Duck can swim faster and Gander can fly higher, so which is the one and only, true and forever champion of champions? They compete in a freeze-in-place contest. But then Fox shows up.

***The Rainbow Fish***, Marcus Pfister, North-South Books, 1-55858-009-3  
A beautiful fish learns to make friends by sharing his most prized possessions.

***Swimmy***, Leo Lionni, Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 0-39481713-3. A tiny fish uses his brain to figure out how to defeat the big fish non-violently.

***Tico and the Golden Wings***, Leo Lionni, Dragonfly Books, 0-39483078-4.  
A little bird gains friendship by giving away his golden feathers and learning to value individual differences in the process.

## **Non-Violence**

***The Bully: A Discussion and Activity Book***, Ruth Toews, Birds Hill Publishing, 0-9736224-0-7.  
Has a short story about a child being bullied, followed by questions and activities to reinforce kindness.

***Enemy Pie***, Derek Munson, Chronicle Books, 0-8118-2778-x. Dad's secret recipe makes a friend out of an enemy, all with good humor.

***If You Choose Not to Hit***, Kathy Beckwith, Educational Media Corp., 1-930572-09-3. Uses real life situations to explain twelve powerful conflict resolution skills. Uses humor and rhyme to help children think through alternatives in problem solving situations.

***Six Crows***, Leo Leonni, Alfred A. Knopf Publisher, 0-395-89572-x. Six crows and a farmer make peace by “totally thinking things over.”

***The Story of Ferdinand***, Munro Leaf, Puffin Books, 0-14-050-234-3. A young bull refuses to fight, remaining true to himself and valuing what he enjoys.

See also *Martin’s Big Words*, under Courage.

## **Peacemakers**

***Peace Begins with You***, Katherine Scholes, Sierra Club Books, Little Brown and Co., 0-316-77436-7. Beginning with the child’s world and progressing to communities and the wider world, this book helps young children understand and become peacemakers.

***The Peace Book***, Todd Parr, Little Brown & Co., 0-316-83531-5. Introduces the concept of peace to young children by using situations that involve everyday experiences, e.g., “Peace is saying you’re sorry when you hurt someone.”

***This Little Light of Mine***, traditional song illustrated by E. B. Lewis, Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 0-689-83179-x, 2005. The illustrations carry the meaning of the words to the song as a young boy goes about his everyday activities.

## **Resourcefulness**

***Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt***, Deborah Hopkinson, Dragonfly Books, Alfred A Knopf, 0-679-87472-0. Young Clara uses her skill at sewing to make a map quilt to guide slaves to the underground railway.

## **Self Esteem, Contentment and Persistence**

***Amazing Grace***, Mary Hoffman, Dial Books, Penguin Putnam, Inc. 0-8037-1040-2. Loved family members help Grace overcome her anxieties and the taunts of her friends in her quest to dance the role of Peter Pan.

***The King’s Equal***, Katherine Paterson, Harper Collins, 0-06-443396-x. Rosemund’s contentment with herself and what she possesses overcomes the arrogance, greed and selfishness of the young king.

***The Rag Coat***, Lauren Mills, Little Brown, 0-316-57404-4. A resourceful young girl overcomes the taunts of children by telling them stories about her rag coat.

***The Velveteen Rabbit***, Margery Williams, Avon Books/Hearst Corp., 0-380-00255-8. The power of love changes a battered toy into a real rabbit.

## **War - Fighting**

***The Butter Battle Book***, Dr. Seuss, Random House Books for Young Readers, 1984, 0-39-486580-4. This book has a lot to teach about intolerance and how tit-for-tat violence can quickly get out of hand.

***Playing War***, Kathy Beckwith, Tilbury House Publishers, 0-88448-267-7. Helps children think through the real impact of war in a sensitive way.

***Tusk, Tusk***, David McKee, Kane/Miller Publishers, 0-916291-28-6. A fable about how differences can lead to hatred and war.

## **Adult Resources**

***Everyone Wins, Cooperative Games and Activities***, Sambhava Luvmour and Josette Luvmour, New Society Publishers, 0-86571190-9. Uses play to teach skills to resolve conflict, embrace communication, build self-esteem, and encourage laughing with each other.

***Keeping the Peace: Practicing Cooperation and Conflict Resolution with Preschoolers***. Susanne Wichert, New Society Publishers, 0-86571-158-5. Describes settings, Guidance and activities that enable young children to be cooperative and enable them to solve their own conflicts.

***Kids Creating Circles of Peace***, Anne Marie Hansen and Susan Vogh, FAVAN Institute for Peace and Justice (Families Against Violence Advocacy Network,) 0-912-756-17-8. Contains real life situations that challenge children to answer questions and think about non-violent skills needed to get along in the world. Contains pledges of nonviolence for both families and individual children.

***Peace Works: Young Peacemakers Project Book II***. Kathleen Fry-Miller, Judith Myers-Walls and Janet Domer-Shank, Brethren Press, 0-87178-977-9. More everyday peacemaking activities for preschool through elementary children.

***Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope***, Storytelling, and Activities for Peace, Justice and the Environment, Editors: Ed Brody, Jay Goldspinner, Katie Green, New Society Publishers, 0-86571447-9. Contains 29 stories from around the world contributing to a more compassionate, just and healthy world.

***Young Peacemakers Project Book***, Kathleen Fry-Miller and Judith Myers-Walls, Brethren Press, 0-87178-976-0. Learning activities, which introduce preschool through elementary children to the fundamental concepts of peacemaking.

\* Compiled and Written by:  
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East Lansing, MI  
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**FAMILY AND  
SMALL GROUP  
ACTIVITIES  
ON  
PEACE ISSUES**

**Written and Compiled by:  
Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister  
University Christian Church, San Diego, CA  
On behalf of Disciples Peace Fellowship**

## **LEARNING MORE ABOUT “SHALOM”**

Shalom is a biblical word that suggests a dynamic state of “wholeness.” It is defined as the harmonious interrelatedness of all parts of God’s creation, which is the required condition for true peace. Shalom is an affirmation of one’s commitment to God and a recognition of one’s responsibility for all persons. Shalom is justice, mutual interdependence and communal well-being. It is seeing oneself as a global citizen, affirming that we are bound together inextricably with one another and all of humankind. Shalom is completeness. SHALOM involves four things: peace among nations; integrity and justice within a community; peace within a household; and inner peace within an individual.

### **PLAY THE NAME GAME**

The first person to introduce themselves gives their first name PLUS a word associated with SHALOM that begins with the first letter of their first name (i.e. Frank/Faithful). The next person says the last person’s name and SHALOM word and then their own, on around the circle, repeating all of the names and SHALOM words that have gone before, until each person has introduced themselves and everyone else.

### **READ THE STORY OF ESTHER AND MORDECAI (Esther 3:13-17)**

A SHALOM action happened when Mordecai:

A SHALOM action happened when Esther:

Some characteristics of a SHALOM action are:

The results of the SHALOM actions of Mordecai and Esther were: (read Esther 7:2-3; 8:15-17a)

### **READ THE STORY OF JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS (Luke 19:1-10)**

A SHALOM action happened when Jesus:

A SHALOM action when Zacchaeus:

Some characteristics of a SHALOM action are:

The results of the SHALOM actions of Jesus and Zacchaeus were:

### **WHO HAVE WE KNOWN WHO EXEMPLIFIED A SHALOM LIFE?**

Each person in the group shares the name of an individual whom they have known that lived a recognizable SHALOM lifestyle. Characterize and describe that life and what influence it had on you and your life.

### **SHARE YOUR FEELINGS AT THIS POINT ABOUT SHALOM**

### **JOIN IN CIRCLE FOR CLOSING PRAYER**

## QUESTIONS FOR DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION

1. How were disputes settled in your family as you were growing up?
2. How are disputes settled between you and your friends?
3. Can you recall an incident in your life that made you so angry that you used violence? How might that dispute have been settled in a more peaceful way?
4. Have you ever acted as a peacemaker? (describe the incident)
5. Do you believe that real justice and peace can only be achieved by peaceful means and by peaceful people? [read James 3:18 – “True justice is reaped by peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace (paraphrase)”] Why or why not?

## ACTION PLANS TOWARD LIVING A LIFESTYLE OF “SHALOM”

Personally determine four SHALOM action goals that you want to achieve for yourself.

There are three kinds of SHALOM actions:

- (1) direct aid to a victim of injustice;
- (2) personal lifestyle changes;
- (3) changing the structures around you.

Share your action goals with the larger group.

## RESPONDING TO POSSIBILITIES

S.G. West has written: “When approached by a hostile person I am faced with several alternatives. (1) I can strike back; but this doesn’t help his hostility, and it may be more harmful to me in the end; (2) I can run away, or use the common theory of ‘he who runs away lives to fight another day,’ but this doesn’t help him either; (3) I can call the police and wash my hands of the affair, possibly resulting in more hostility; or (4) I can say to the person, ‘Wait a minute, what makes you the way you are?’ It is an approach of turning the other cheek, creatively, taking a certain risk, but attempting conciliation.”

What do you think of his approach?

Which approach would you normally take – and why?

Are there other possible approaches that you can think of?

Which approach would you like to use, if at all possible?

## EXPERIENCING A “DAY FOR PEACE”

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 8:00 am – 9:00 am  | - Spend 1 hour in study/devotion/prayer (select scriptures from the scriptures provided in this Peace Packet)  |
| 9:00 am - 11:00 am | - Spend 2 hours writing a statement of YOUR position on War, Peace, Nuclear weapons or some related theme. (The statement may be in prose, poetry or perhaps even music, drama, or story form. Be creative!) Undergird your time with periodic times of prayer and meditation. |

- 11:00 am - 3:00 pm                    - Spend 3 hours (with an hour break for lunch) writing persons in leadership positions expressing your views: city council persons, ministers, judicatory leaders, legislators, President, etc.) Undergird your time with periodic times of prayer and meditation.
- 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm                    - Spend 4 hours (with an hour break for supper) talking to persons about your views, seeking to secure at least 7 new members for the Disciples Peace Fellowship and/or an interfaith peace group or organization in your community. Talk with friends, neighbors, clergy and others you can think of.

## **WAYS TO BECOME PEACE MAKERS**

There are other means of confronting aggression than military retaliation! There are other means of dealing with our enemy than to kill him! There are other means of saving ourselves than to do away with our fellow sojourners within our global community! We must remember Jesus' words: "The one who saves their life will lose it; but the one who loses their life for my sake shall find it." Our task is to become peace MAKERS! We can do that by:

1. Praying for PEACE
  - a. Believe that prayer can work!
2. Learning about PEACE
  - a. It is harder to work for peace than to drift into war. We need to become informed about groups that are working for peace and become a part of those we think are doing the most effective job.
  - b. We tend to only hear what we want to hear. Be open to what is really going on!
3. Promoting PEACE through education
  - a. Find ways for you and/or your congregation to be involved in educating others in the ways of peace.
4. Breaking the link between violence and courage
  - a. Much of our violence today happens because we as Christians have condoned it! It takes more courage to stand up against war and stand for peace than to become involved in violence!
5. Puncturing the myths about war
  - a. War is neither noble nor glorious. Total war in a nuclear age is an unspeakable evil.
6. Shaping public opinion
  - a. Through conversations with friends and neighbors, letters to the editor and elected representatives, and involvement in local peace and justice groups can help change attitudes.
7. Cooperating with others
  - a. Become a part of a group in your community that actively promotes peace.
8. Vote for PEACE
  - a. Vote for those candidates who take stands against war and for peace.
9. Support the United Nations
  - a. With all of its handicaps, it still provides us with a hopeful instrument in keeping peace in our world!
10. Encourage true patriotism
  - a. Peace is patriotic! The real patriot has always been the person who is not afraid to be proactive in criticizing defective policies of their nation. Our common humanity is more basic than any political distinctiveness.
11. Consider a family or congregational offering for peace designated to help support the Peace Intern Program of Disciples Peace Fellowship. Offerings may be sent to DPF,

P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986 or go to [dpfweb.org](http://dpfweb.org) and follow the links on how to contribute vital support.

## **TAKING A FAMILY PLEDGE OF NONVOLENCE**

(You will find the pledge on the next page)

### **WHY TAKE THE PLEDGE?**

We are surrounded by so much violence in our world. We are families who join together to say: "Enough! No more violence! We can do better!" We believe that marriage, home, and family is the prime testing ground for mutuality, servanthood, conflict management and conflict resolution, and reconciliation.

We are families of faith who choose to involve ourselves because of basic belief in humanity. We join together as peacemakers in advocating for alternatives to violent behaviors and in promoting violence prevention. We are committed to nonviolence and are convinced that what we do matters. Together we believe that we can make a difference!

### **A SUGGESTED RITUAL**

**Setting:** Gather around the family table. Place symbolic items on the table (such as a candle (unlit), a dove, a peace crane, or other objects) that are important to you in regard to peace. Have a small individual candle for each member of the family. Light that candle before the ceremony begins. You may want to have quiet meditative music playing in the background. A member of the family could play a musical instrument.

**Opening Prayer:** "God, you are the Source of all being. We are thankful for the gifts that we have of our individual lives, our family life together, and our relationships with all of those whom we love. We thank you for love and connectedness. We thank you for each other and for all of the members of our global family. As we make our Family Pledge of non-violence, may we have eyes to see the needs of each other. May we have hearts that reach even beyond ourselves. May we have love that is ready to relate to one another with kindness, care and courage."

**Candle Lighting:** Each member of the family takes their lighted individual candle and together they light the family candle on the table, as a sign of family unity.

**Signing the Pledge:** The person chosen to be the leader of the moment explains why they are making a family pledge. Then each family member expresses which points of the pledge will be most challenging for them, personally, and where they will need encouragement. The leader then assures everyone that they are committed together as a family to help each other keep the pledge. The family then reads the pledge in unison, followed by the individual signing of the pledge. Then, as a seal of commitment, the family members exchange a sign of peace to one another, individually. Then share in a "group" hug, expressing the solidarity of the family.

**Closing:** The family then sings a favorite song, such as "Let There Be Peace on Earth," "Shalom," or "Go, now in Peace." Then the family shares in a favorite snack or meal in celebration of the new pledge they have made with one another.

**Follow-up:** Place the signed "Family Pledge of Nonviolence" in a prominent place where everyone can readily see it on a regular basis. Refer to it often, not as a mandate, but as a reminder of what the family has done together. Check in with each other on a regular basis to see how progress is being made.

## ***Family Pledge of Nonviolence***

Making peace must start within ourselves and in our family. Each of us, members of the \_\_\_\_\_ family, commit ourselves as best we can to become nonviolent and peaceable people.

### **To Respect Self and Others**

To respect myself, to affirm others and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.

### **To Communicate Better**

To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger, and to work at solving problems peacefully.

### **To Listen**

To listen carefully to one another, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others' feelings and needs rather than insist on having my own way.

### **To Forgive**

To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

### **To Respect Nature**

To treat the environment and all living things, including our pets, with respect and care.

### **To Play Creatively**

To select entertainment and toys that support our family's values and to avoid entertainment that makes violence look exciting, funny or acceptable.

### **To Be Courageous**

To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work, or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

This is our pledge. These are our goals. We will check ourselves on what we have pledged once a month on \_\_\_\_\_ for the next twelve months so that we can help each other become more peaceable people.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***"Eliminating violence, one family at a time, starting with our own."***

Institute for Peace and Justice, 475 East Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119  
Phone: (314) 918-2630 --- Fax: (314) 918-2643  
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# MUSIC OF PEACE

**Written and Compiled by:**  
**Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister**  
**University Christian Church, San Diego, CA**  
**on behalf of Disciples Peace Fellowship**

## HYMNS FROM THE CHALICE HYMNAL

(Chalice Press, St. Louis, MO, Copyright 1995)

### Be creative in how you use these hymns!

- + Simply speak the words aloud;
- + Create a litany, using the words;
- + Find ways to use them in different parts of the service, not necessarily in the suggested locations;
- + Use them as solos, duets or choir anthems;
- + Read them aloud as poetry;
- + Act them out as they are sung or spoken;
- + Interpret them through creative liturgical dance;
- + Use them as a starting point of discussion, after having either spoken the words or having sung the hymn;
- + Use the words as a Call to Prayer or Call to Communion . . .

Down By The Riverside (African-American Spiritual)	- # 673	- Hymn of Praise/Hymn of Prayer
For the Healing of the Nations	- # 668	- Hymn of Praise/Morning Hymn
Go In Peace	- # 445	- Hymn of Departure
God the Omnipotent!	- # 679	- Hymn of Praise
I Bind My Heart This Tide	- # 350	- Hymn of Prayer/Commitment
Let There Be Peace on Earth	- # 677	- Hymn of Prayer
O Day of God, Draw Nigh	- # 700	- Hymn of Prayer/Departure
O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines	- # 711	- Hymn of Prayer/Closing Hymn
O For A World	- # 683	- Hymn of Praise/Morning Hymn
O God of Every Nation	- # 680	- Hymn of Praise
O God of Love, O Power of Peace	- # 676	- Hymn of Prayer
Restless Weaver	- # 658	- Hymn of Prayer/Communion Hymn
This Is My Song	- # 722	- Hymn of Praise/Morning Hymn
What Does the Lord Require Of You?	- # 661	- Hymn of Prayer/Communion Hymn
When, In Awe of God's Creation	- # 688	- Hymn of Praise/Hymn of Prayer
When Will People Cease Their Fighting?	- # 675	- Hymn of Praise



# One Spirit of Love

♩ = 89

Muted strum  
Light Reggae Feel

Paul B. Svenson

Musical notation for the first line, including a 4-measure rest and a repeat sign.

1. Ma - ny are the won - ders of God ma - ny  
2. Some will be the tea - chers of life some the  
3. Li - ving as the bo - dy of Christ and the

Musical notation for the second line.

doors o - pen wide ma - ny roads that are still un -  
prea - chers of love some the fa - thers and some the  
heart of the earth and the hands that will break new

Musical notation for the third line.

tra - veled Ma - ny are the gifts that we share  
mo - thers Some will be the ones who will care  
gro - und Cel - e - brate the gifts from with - in

Musical notation for the fourth line.

ma - ny bur - dens we bear ma - ny  
some will li - sten and share serv - ing  
now its time to be - gin God's -

Musical notation for the fifth line.

my - ster - ies still un - ra - veled  
God as they serve each - o - ther  
peo - ple can turn the world a - rou - nd now!

Musical notation for the sixth line.

**CHORUS** Ma - ny gifts One spi - rit of love one spi - rit of love

Musical notation for the seventh line.

Ma - ny gifts One spi - rit of love one spi - rit of love

# Through the Eyes of God

♩ = 110

Paul B. Svenson

Best played on piano  
Guitars-drop strange chords!

F C Dm B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> C

1. If we could see through the ey - es of God we would look be - yond the pain  
hear through the ea - rs of God we would hear the prayer of peace  
love with the he - art of God we would lift the weak to stand

F C F C Dm F<sup>7</sup>

If we could see through the ey - es of God Fal - len  
If we could hear through the ea - rs of God Un - der -  
If we could love with the he - art of God We would

B<sup>b</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup>/C C F A<sup>7</sup>

lives would ri - se a - gain And we would see each de -  
stand - ing would in - crease And as each new gen - er -  
touch with heal - ing hand The an - cient con - flicts re -

Dm<sup>7</sup> F<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup> B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup>/C B<sup>b</sup><sup>6</sup>/C C

ci - sion through a broad and time - less vi - sion And the  
a - tion sings its own song to cre - a - tion Hymns of  
sol - ving new cre - a - tion still e - vol - ving like a

F D Gm Gm<sup>7</sup>(<sup>b</sup>5)/C<sup>#</sup> F/C Dm<sup>7</sup>

day when jus - tice will rise If we could see the wo - rld through  
hope en - cir - cle the years If we could hear the wo - rld through  
fra - gile trea - sure of art If we could love the wo - rld with

B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup>/G C F

God's Eyes 2. If we could  
God's own Ears 3. If we could  
God's own Heart

# Waiting for the Light

(Congregational Introit For Advent )

♩ = 100 Paul B. Svenson

The musical score is written in treble clef, D major, and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a tempo marking of quarter note = 100. The second staff has a repeat sign at the end. The third staff has a repeat sign at the end. The fourth staff has a repeat sign at the end. The fifth staff is labeled 'CHORUS' and has a repeat sign at the end. The sixth staff has a repeat sign at the end.

Peace to you my friend Wel - come to you neigh - bor, it's a  
time of ex - pec - ta - tion, we're wait - ing for the light  
Come and ease your bur - dens, come and share your laugh - ter, come and  
join the pre - par - a - tion. We're wait - ing for the light  
**CHORUS** Yes we're wait - ing wait - ing, with our  
hearts joined to - ge - ther we will look be - yond the night We are

## Waiting For The Light

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Staff 1: Chords D, F#7, G, Em, A. Lyrics: wait - ing, we're wait - ing for the

Staff 2: Chords D, Em, F#m, G, A. Lyrics: light! Yes we're

Staff 3: Chords D, G, Em, A. Lyrics: light! we're wait - ing for the

Staff 4: Chord D. Lyrics: light!

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The above three songs are used by permission of Paul Svenson  
You can listen to all of his music by way of a podcast  
that can be downloaded for free by going to:  
[www.dadsongbook.com](http://www.dadsongbook.com) or <http://web.mac.com/dadsongbook>

## OTHER HYMNS OF PEACE

### PEACE SALAAM SHALOM

(This wonderful song, written by Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow, who make up the terrific musical duo “emma’s revolution,” is based on the words for PEACE in English, Arabic and Hebrew. It can be downloaded and printed at no charge by going to [www.emmasrevolution.com](http://www.emmasrevolution.com). Double click on the word “music.” When the next page comes up, click on the words “sheet music” on the right hand side. That will bring up another page that lists the song. Click on “Download free” and then print it out.)

### LET US LIVE IN PEACE (Sung to tune: We Shall Overcome)

Let us live in peace. Let us live in peace.  
Let us live in peace today.  
Oh, deep in our hearts, we do believe, that we can live in peace some day!

We shall share our bread. We shall share our bread.  
We shall share our bread today.  
Oh, deep in our hearts, we do believe, that bread can make us one some day!

### HE SHALL JUDGE BETWEEN THE NATIONS (Isaiah 2:4, paraphrased) (Sung to the tune: “Rose, Rose,” can be sung as a round)

“He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nations will not lift up their swords, Going against another nation;  
Neither shall they learn all about war, and it will cease for evermore.”

## CREATE A SONG!

Below are listed a number of phrases which might be for you the starting of a song. Be creative! Discover other phrases or words of scripture from which you can build your own “Peace Song.” It may be just a chorus. It may be several verses and a chorus. It may be sung to a familiar tune (like the one above) or to a tune you create yourself. Try being a composer!

- + “Give to us PEACE in our time!”
- + “There shall come a day” – Isaiah 2:1-5
- + “Planting there the Tree of Peace”
- + “Grace and PEACE be unto you”
- + “Bind us all to PEACE”
- + “Where love dwells, the PEACE of God is there”
- + “Can PEACE be ever found?”
- + “We break the bread of PEACE”
- + “Bring to us your Word of PEACE”
- + “My plans for you include SHALOM” – Jeremiah 29:11
- + “Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS” – Matthew 5:9
- + “Children of a single family”
- + “When we talk of PEACE . . .”

**SOME THOUGHTS  
FOR  
PREACHERS  
ABOUT  
PREACHING ON  
PEACE ISSUES**

**Written by:  
Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister  
University Christian Church, San Diego, CA  
on behalf of Disciples Peace Fellowship**

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR PREACHERS . . .

I was serving my first full-time congregation during the early stages of the Vietnam War. I was – and continue to be – a Christian Pacifist. Therefore, I was opposed to war and specifically to that particular conflict in Vietnam. During the first few years, it was a fairly popular war! Many Americans supported it. However, I determined that I needed to stand up and preach what I believed the Spirit of God and the Gospel message were urging me to preach.

Many ministers whom I knew were being fired for preaching against the war. I never did get fired! Several years later, after preaching strongly on some other social and political issues that included racism, sexism, and homophobia, I wondered what made the difference between what I was preaching and what others were preaching that got them fired and yet allowed me to continue proclaiming what I believed to be the Gospel message. Here are some of the things that I believe can make the difference: (with appreciation to the Presbyterian Peace Network, Rev. Richard G. Watts, *The Pastor's Letter*, Volume. 2, Number 10 [October 1981], revised by Rev. Mark Koenig, July 2003, from which some of these thoughts and ideas come)

1. ***Preach on such issues from a biblical perspective rather than from a social or political perspective.*** People want to know what the Gospel message is saying to them. We are to be an interpreter of God's Word, not a politician or a social science professor. We are shaped by Jesus' call to "love our enemies" and Micah's vision of a time and place in which swords are beaten into plows.
2. ***Preach in a way that is pastoral.*** Care about those who are listening. Be aware of their feelings. Be sensitive
3. ***Preach out of a "vision" rather than out of a "mandate."*** Preaching peace is not a matter of "ought" and "should" but a matter of helping people to perceive a vision of what God intends for this world to look like. Hope always causes us to look forward. God's hope of a world becoming new will motivate us into a new future, overcoming all of our fears.
4. ***Preach using "I" messages and not "you" messages.*** Don't put down other people, but talk about how you are experiencing the situation in relationship to what "I" believe the Gospel is saying.
5. ***Preach using a "peaceful" manner.*** Preaching with the idea of "telling it like it is" with an attitude of "self-righteous anger" will almost always bring about a rejection of what is being said. Speak with a respect for those who are listening.
6. ***Preach in a way that encourages dialogue with one another.*** Find a place in your Fellowship Hall (during the coffee hour following the service of worship) so that people can gather together to dialogue with you and one another regarding what was said in your sermon.
7. ***Preach in a way that provides ideas as to what people can do to follow through.*** Provide options. Provide something concrete that people can do to respond to the need.
8. ***Preach expecting something positive to happen!*** Know that the Holy Spirit does work in the minds, hearts and souls of those who hear.

**POSSIBLE  
PEACE  
ACTIONS FOR  
CONGREGATIONS  
AND  
INDIVIDUALS**

**Written and Compiled by:  
Rev. Dr. David C. Downing, retired minister  
University Christian Church, San Diego, CA  
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## **AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR AS A CONGREGATION: MAKE PLANS TO . . .**

1. Create a “social action” table in your congregation where people can find resources and respond to specific peace actions.
2. Have a day or weekend of intensive pro-peace visibility
  - a. Organize a tabling, leafleting or postering presence in a location that has a lot of pedestrian traffic where you can have direct contact with people.
3. Become a part of a peace group within your community
  - a. Most larger cities and communities have some kind of a “Peace and Justice Coalition.”
4. Have a peaceful vigil in front of the district office of your senators and/or congress persons
5. Be open to travel to Washington DC or New York – or some other large city – in order to participate in a large gathering or march whose primary goal is to discover peaceful solutions to war
6. Place pro-peace advertisement in your local newspaper
7. Speak up for peace in your local media
  - a. Write letters to the editor
  - b. Call in to talk shows and share your views of the importance of seeking peaceful solutions
  - c. Be willing to respond to requests from television for personal interviews
8. Schedule a forum, open to your neighborhood or community, that addresses the costs of war that could be diverted to ways of creating SHALOM among all persons
  - a. Invite pro-peace political leaders to be on a panel presentation
  - b. Allow for open discussion and dialogue
9. Urge your minister to deliver sermons on peace and SHALOM at least twice a year, especially on March 11 or 18, 2007. (This will be the time of the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iraq conflict)
10. Launch a local “Cities for Peace” campaign
  - a. Add your community to the growing list of cities and towns, nationwide, which have passed resolutions for peace and against war.
  - b. The week of the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iraq invasion would be a great time to have a resolution introduced or voted on in your city, community or town. (visit [www.citiesforpeace.org](http://www.citiesforpeace.org) for more information.)

11. Become a Jubilee congregation, seeking for third world debt elimination, which speaks of SHALOM as global citizens. (visit [www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org) for more information)
12. Be a part of the annual **Ecumenical Advocacy Days For Global Peace and Justice** to be held in Washington DC, **March 23-26, 2011**.
  - a. Started in 2003 with 400 persons in attendance, this gathering of religious persons from many denominations has grown to almost 1000 participants. (visit [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org) for more information)



## Disciples Peace Fellowship

*“Keeping alive the passion for Peace and Justice”*

DPF is the oldest peace organization of any denomination,  
keeping alive the passion for Peace and Justice since 1935!

[www.dpfweb.org](http://www.dpfweb.org)



**Address of Congregation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Completing Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: Peace Sunday, DPF, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN P.O. Box 1986,  
Indianapolis, IN 46206