



Prayer Vigil for Iraq

Opening Prayer

God of Peace, over the ages you have called us to live as peacemakers. You have called us to be a shalom people. You have called us to be Children of God.

We confess that we have not always lived out this calling. We do not want to face the difficulties of being called your disciples. We take the easy way out. We avoid controversy. We don't speak out when we know we should. For these things we ask your forgiveness.

We confess that we are too tolerant of war and violence. We depend on our own power and position to settle differences instead of asking for your wisdom.

Forgive us, Gracious God. We ask that your Spirit guide us to act with loving grace and peace. Be with us in our continuing efforts to be peacemakers. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Receive our prayers, O Lord, our God.

Hear us, O God. For your church around the world, we ask for new life,

Hear us, O God.

Give us a heart to love and reverence you, that we may live according to your commandments.

Hear us, O God.

For Christians of every land, we ask new unity in your name.

Hear us, O God.

For Jews and Muslims and people of other faiths, we ask your divine blessing.

Hear us, O God.

For our President, and for rulers in every land, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

Hear us, O God.

Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them in all dangers and adversities,

Hear us, O God.

To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give dignity, food and shelter,

Hear us, O God.

For all people who suffer and grieve, we ask you healing peace,

Hear us, O God.

Holy God, your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought humanity the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured. Teach us who follow the example he gave us. Through our faith, hope, and charity, may we turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, and death to eternal life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

READINGS

(Follow each reading by a few minutes of silence)

Romans 12: 1-5, 9-21

Mark 12:28-34

RESPONSE

Lord, Teach Us

L: O God, so many people are in pain;

C: Teach us the way to peace.

L: When people around us don't agree and think differently;

C: O God, teach us to listen and understand.

L: When we see people getting hurt;

C: O God, teach us to speak up.

L: When we see people who are hungry and poor;

C: O God, teach us to give to them like you give to us.

L: When we see people treated poorly because of their skin color or language;

C: O God, teach us to be an example of love.

L: When we see war and conflict around the world;

C: O God, teach us how to make a difference and bring peace.

L: When we see pain;

C: O God, teach us to bring healing.

L: When we feel low and things don't seem to be going well;

C: O God, teach us to talk to our friends, our family and to you.

L: When we stop and see all you have given us;

C: O God, teach us to be thankful.

L: In our lives, our neighborhoods and the world;

C: O God, teach us to pray and teach us the way to peace.

Amen.

Closing Prayer:

Dominican Prayer for Iraq

O God of Peace, of Justice, and of Healing we pray for the people of Iraq. We pray for their safety, security, the restoration of the country and of the well being of each person. We pray that peace be restored.

We pray for Wisdom and Right Judgment for all the leaders who are responsible for decision making.

We pray for Courage and Understanding for all the communities of Iraq and those working in the country that they put aside their differences and come to focus on the common good.

We pray for Counsel for those who are establishing and will be a part of the new government of Iraq that they seek to serve the needs of all the people.

We pray for Fortitude for those who will confront the unjust activities and violence that are taking place within Iraq during these recent months.

We pray for all those who are suffering from the effects of war. May they be filled with Courage, Fear of the Lord and Consolation as they endure the harsh realities of violence.

We pray for Knowledge for those who are commissioned to research and assist the decision makers who need to have the best information to make decisions regarding the needs of the people.

We pray with all our Dominican family in union with Dominic and Catherine that the Holy Spirit lavish the people of Iraq with Her gifts.

Amen

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