

# Prayers following violence

compiled by the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship

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## For Peace

Eternal God,  
in your perfect realm no sword is drawn  
but the sword of righteousness,  
and there is no strength but the strength of love.  
So mightily spread abroad your Spirit,  
that all peoples may be gathered  
under the banner of the Prince of Peace,  
as your children;  
to you be dominion and glory,  
now and forever. Amen.

*Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 1993) 795.*

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## For Peace

Lord Christ,  
at times we are like strangers on this earth,  
taken aback by all the violence, the harsh oppositions.  
Like a gentle breeze, you breathe upon us the Spirit of peace.  
Transfigure the deserts of our doubts,  
and so prepare us to be bearers of reconciliation  
wherever you place us,  
until the day when a hope of peace  
dawns in our world. **Amen.**

*Brother Roger of Taizé, Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 1993) 795.*

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## For World Unity

O God,  
you love justice and you establish peace on earth.  
We bring before you the disunity of today's world:  
the absurd violence, and the many wars,  
which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world;  
militarism and the armaments race,  
which are threatening life on the planet;  
human greed and injustice,  
which breed hatred and strife.  
Send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth;  
teach us to be compassionate toward the whole human  
family;  
strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for  
peace;  
lead all nations into the path of peace,  
and give us the peace which the world cannot give. **Amen.**

*A prayer from Zaire, Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 1993) 797-798.*

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## For International Organizations

O God,  
we pray for all international organizations of goodwill,  
that their efforts may lead to a strengthening  
of those influences which make for peace.  
Great sacrifices have been made for war;  
awaken in us and in all people, O God,  
the willingness to make great sacrifices for peace,  
so that the day may be hastened  
when no nation shall draw the sword against another,  
and people no longer shall learn to fight.  
We ask this in the name of him who is the Prince of  
Peace. **Amen.**

*From the Mainau Prayerbook, Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 1993) 798.*

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## In a Time of International Crisis

Eternal God, our only hope,  
our help in times of trouble:  
show nations ways to work out differences.  
Do not let threats multiply  
or power be used without compassion.  
May your will overrule human willfulness,  
so that people may agree and settle claims peacefully.  
Hold back those who are impulsive,  
lest desire for vengeance overwhelm our common welfare.  
Bring peace to earth, through Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace and Savior of us all. **Amen.**

*Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 1993) 799.*

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## An Interfaith Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but you.  
Great and wonderful are your works, wondrous are your  
ways.  
Thank you for the many splended variety of your creation.  
Thank you for the many ways  
we affirm your presence and purpose,  
and the freedom to do so.  
Forgive our violation of your creation.  
Forgive our violence toward each other.  
We stand in awe and gratitude for your persistent love  
for each and all of your children:  
Christian, Jew, Muslim,  
as well as those with other faiths.  
Grant to all and our leaders attributes of the strong:  
mutual respect in words and deed,  
restraint in the exercise of power,  
and the will for peace with justice, for all.  
Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but you.

*This prayer was co-authored by Christian, Jewish, and Muslim clergy around the time of the Gulf War in 1991.*