

A Jain Prayer for Peace

Offered by Dr. Hemlata Pokharna, Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago

A Jewish Prayer for Peace (From *Siddur Sim Shalom*) Offered by Rabbi Michael Balinsky,  
Executive Vice President - Chicago Board of Rabbis

A Sikh Prayer for Peace

Offered by Dr. Balwant Singh Hansra, Co-Founder, Sikh Religious Society

A Zoroastrian Prayer for Peace [From *Zarathushtra, Yasna 60.5*]

Offered by Rohinton Rivetna, Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago

LEADER [Bishop Sally Dyck, United Methodist Church – Northern Illinois Conference]

Let us invoke the Love that moves above us and below us, around us and within us.

Let us invoke the living spirit of the peacemakers who have gone before us. Let us invoke the Spirit of Love that is lived as solidarity of each with all, of one with the other:

ALL RESPOND

Quicken the sense of our common humanity and bring the nations into a new bond of fellowship.

LEADER [Bishop Sally Dyck, United Methodist Church – Northern Illinois Conference]

Let us acknowledge our interconnectedness as well as our interdependence

Let us make real the solidarity we know we may make real as we acknowledge that it is broken...

ALL RESPOND

...broken by the crimes against persons in our communities and city...

...broken by the proliferation of weapons in our neighborhoods and on our streets...

...broken by the hopelessness among the impoverished...

...broken by the lack of resources and healthy alternatives to aid those in need...

...broken by a culture glorifying violence and war...

...broken by a society that has undervalued the sense of the sacred...

LEADER [Bishop Sally Dyck, United Methodist Church – Northern Illinois Conference]

Let us invoke the Love that moves above and below us, around us and within us.

Let us invoke the Spirit of Love that is greater than we are, but which is made real through us.

Let us invoke that human solidarity that makes justice possible and, through justice, makes peace possible.

Let us pray that peace will alight on our city, on our nation, throughout the world.

ALL RESPOND

Amen.

Hymn by a Youth Choir - *Let there be peace on earth*

## THE TIME IS NOW: URGENT PRAYERS FOR PEACE

*An InterFaith Gathering  
In Witness of Peace*

*Sponsored by  
The Council of Religious Leaders of  
Metropolitan Chicago*



Council of Religious  
Leaders of  
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**MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2014  
NOON TO 1 PM**

**DALEY PLAZA (WASHINGTON &  
CLARK STREETS, CHICAGO)**

### WELCOME\OPENING REMARKS

Rabbi Michael Balinsky, President – Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

### A CALL TO REPENTANCE

Offered by Reverend B. Herbert Martin, Pastor

International Council of Community Churches, Progressive Community Center

### PSALM 51/50 LXX (The Bible: New Revised Standard Version)

Offered by Very Rev. Aren Jebejian, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Orthodox Church

Hymn by a Youth Choir — *This Is My Song*

[Words by Lloyd Stone, 1934; Tune: Finlandia by Jean Sibelius]

From the New Century Hymnal, Copyright © 1995 The Pilgrim Press

### A LITANY OF WITNESS

LEADER [The Most Rev. Francis Kane, Vicar General of the (Roman Catholic) Archdiocese of Chicago]

We gather together this afternoon to acknowledge our grief, a weary grief born from violence, in crime and in war that breaks bodies and hearts, families and neighborhoods, communities, nations and regions.

ALL RESPOND

We bear witness to our loss.

LEADER [The Most Rev. Francis Kane, Vicar General of the (Roman Catholic) Archdiocese of Chicago]

We remember the ones we knew and loved who have perished, and we honor the strangers whose smiling faces and shattered hopes have haunted the edges of the news day in and day out, at home and abroad.

ALL RESPOND

We bear witness to our loss.

LEADER [The Most Rev. Francis Kane, Vicar General of the (Roman Catholic) Archdiocese of Chicago]

We honor those among our children, spouses, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends: those who turned their faces towards the danger, who offered their bodies to protect their neighbors and their communities, and who serve their nation, who have paid the price of war with bone and sinew, breath and blood.

ALL RESPOND

We bear witness to our heroes.

LEADER [The Most Rev. Francis Kane, Vicar General of the (Roman Catholic) Archdiocese of Chicago]

We have learned that our world is a complex web of sorrows, a litany of wrongs and injustices into which we are bound. Our pain has sometimes led us to the dangerous dynamic of retribution.

ALL RESPOND

We bear witness to our choices.

LEADER [The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago]

There are strangers throughout our city and around the world whose lives have been lost to us, innocent others just as beloved as our own dead, just as worthy of lives rich and long.

ALL RESPOND

We bear witness to our violence.

LEADER [The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago]

Yet we know ourselves to be people who hunger for righteousness. We hear the persistent whispers from our prophets and teachers who remind us of the sweet movement from the fist to the open hand, and tell us how urgent is the call to that movement now.

ALL RESPOND

We bear witness to the power of forgiveness.

LEADER [The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago]

There is only one humanity across all the earth. Within each confused and yearning heart is the capacity for unspeakable cruelty, but also the seed of great goodness that can open us to new life.

ALL RESPOND

We bear witness to our unity.

LEADER [The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago]

All around us we hear the language of violence, crime and war, sounding out. We are called into the stronger lilt and music of a new song, sung in a different language, one of peace, in which our future can still beckon us as a place of safety and nurture, justice and harmony.

ALL RESPOND

We bear witness to the way of peace.

### PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

*These prayers for peace (unless otherwise noted) were offered in Assisi, Italy, on the Day of Prayer for World Peace during the U.N. International Year of Peace, 1986.*

A Baha'i Prayer for Peace

Offered by Shayda Safapour, Chicago Baha'i Community

A Christian Prayer for Peace

Offered by Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

A Hindu Prayer for Peace

Offered by Swami Varadananda, Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago

An Islamic Prayer for Peace (cf. *The Quran*)

Offered by Dr. Mohammed Kaiseruddin, Chairman - Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago