



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

THE POWER AND PROMISE OF PEACE

International Day of Peace

Liturgy of the Word for Children 2004

Briefing Before The Liturgy:

The liturgy Coordinator welcomes the community and briefs them about the liturgy, directing them to remain seated during the Entrance Procession.

Entrance Procession:

Bell ringers ring out bells of peace as they lead the Entrance Procession to the sanctuary or sacred space. The bell ringers continue ringing the bells as white balloons are secured in place and the Peace Candle and Lectionary are enthroned, one at a time, in the sacred space. There is no singing during this procession, only the sound of bells of peace.

Order of Procession:

- Bell ringers
- White helium balloons
- Candle bearer
- Lectionary bearer
- Presider

Welcome & Introduction:

Welcome to our celebration of peace. Today is International Day of Peace; a day when people all around the world gather together to pray for a peaceful heart, a peaceful home, a peaceful neighbourhood, a peaceful world. This day is observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. The United Nations General Assembly invites all nations and peoples everywhere to ponder peace for just one day. The theme for 2004 is *The Power and Promise of Peace*. Let us hold this in our hearts and minds, as we begin our celebration by standing and singing joyfully together our Opening Hymn.

Gathering Hymn: PEACEMAKER (Celebration Plus)

Penitential Rite

Presider:

As we gather in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace, let us pray for God's forgiveness for the times we have failed to be people of peace.

Reader: Lord Jesus, you show us how to be peacemakers. Sometimes we fail to be peacemakers in our own families. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Lord Jesus, you show us how to love others. Sometimes we fail to be peacemakers in our own community. Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Reader: Lord Jesus, your peace can change our world. Sometimes we forget that peace must begin in our own hearts. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Presider:

Have mercy on us, God of Peace, and help us to be makers of peace in our words, thoughts and actions. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Opening Prayer

Presider:

Let us pray.

Holy God of Peace, we pray with the world today for peace. Change our lives with the power and promise of your deep peace. Overcome all fear, hatred, violence and war, with your loving peaceful presence.

All: Amen.

First Reading: Ephesians 2:13-16 *One in Christ*

Responsorial Psalm: REMEMBER, WE ARE YOUR PEOPLE
(As One Voice For Kids)

Gospel Acclamation: CELTIC ALLELUIA
(As One Voice/Vol 1 & Gather Australia)

Gospel: JOHN 14: 27 *Peace I leave with you*

Homily:

Reflect with the community on the readings, focusing on Jesus' desire to give them the gift of His own peace. Lead them to reflect on what Jesus' peace would bring to their lives; a very special power and strength, trust, hope and the willingness to forgive and reconcile. Direct the community to be very still and to take a minute or two of silent prayer, asking Jesus to open their hearts to His gift of peace. Play some quiet instrumental music here. When the time is right, fade the music down and invite the community to consider now how they can live out the peace of Jesus and be peace makers in their own circumstances. Reflect with them on the practical things they can do to make their homes, their school, their neighbourhood and wider community a place of peace? Invite people to share some of their ideas with the gathering.

Some suggestion may be:

- Pray for peace
- Write poetry
- Create art that speaks of peace in our world
- Create music for peace

- Voice concerns to national leaders/ decision makers
- Have a time of silence during the day to meditate
- Commit to peace within your own family
- Create a Peace Garden

Conclude by inviting them to sing together the following song.

Reflective Song and Dance:

Choose one of the following songs and accompany it with dance or with PowerPoint images. If possible, included images from within the community. For supplementary images, visit www.google.com

Peace Prayer (John Foley – Gather Australia)

Peace Prayer (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy)

We Will Bring Your Peace (Damien Halloran & Maria Millward- As One Voice For Kids)

Grant Us Peace (Sr Sandra Sears – Whispers of Peace – National Council of Churches Australia – see our Notice Board on this site.)

You & Me A Peace Prayer (Monica Brown – God Delights In You)

I Can Be A Peace Maker (Monica Brown – God Delights In You)

Prayer of the Faithful

Presider:

We come before you, God of Peace, trusting that in your love you will hear our prayers.

Reader: We pray for peace in our world. May our world leaders be makers of peace so that people everywhere may be free from violence, war and terror. Lord, hear us.

All: God of peace, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for peace in our own country. May we work towards reconciliation and justice in all things and with all people. Lord, hear us.

All: God of peace, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for peace in this, our community. May we try to do and say all that helps us to grow in unity, harmony and peace. Lord, hear us.

All: God of peace, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for peace in our own family. Where we experience hurt, sadness and difficulties, bring us your healing love and peace. Lord, hear us.

All: God of peace, hear our prayer.

Reader: We prayer for peace in our own hearts. May we take time to be still and quiet so that we can open our hearts to receive the peace that Jesus wants to give us. Lord, hear us.

All: God of peace, hear our prayer.

Presider:

In your great love O God, hear these prayers and the prayers of our hearts which we pray in the name of Jesus, the one who brings peace.

All: Amen.

Sign of Peace

Presider:

In peaceful unity with the whole world today, let us offer one another a special sign of God's peace.

Lighting of Peace Candles & Commitment to Peace

One representative from each class is invited forward to light a peace candle from the large peace candle in the sacred space. (These candles need to be placed on a small table prior to the liturgy.) As the candles are being lit, sing together the hymn, ***Peace Is Flowing Like A River*** (Glory & Praise Vol. 1). When all the candles are lit the representatives move out and stand beside their class and hold their candle high. A Prayer of Commitment to Peace is now prayed by the entire gathering.

Presider:

As we pray our Prayer of Commitment for Peace, I invite you to hold hands with the people on each side of you as a sign of unity. Let us pray.

All:

God of Peace,

Jesus gives us his promise: 'Peace I leave with you.'

We commit ourselves to the way of peace that you desire for us.

Let your peace begin with us; within our very hearts.

Let us be open to receive your gift of peace.

Let us be makers of peace in our thoughts, words and actions, in our family, in our school and wherever we go.

Give us peaceful hearts and peaceful spirits, O God.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Presider:

Holy God who brings peace to our world, Jesus leaves us his own peace so that we may share it with all. Help us take the peace of Jesus with us from this place so that we may be peacemakers in our world. We pray this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

Presider:

Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing.

(PAUSE)

We pray with our brothers and sisters across the world on this Day of Peace that God will awaken in us our deep desire for peace.

May our God of Peace bless and keep you.

All: Amen.

Presider:

May God's face shine on you and may you know great joy.

All: Amen.

Presider:

May you carry the peace of Jesus deep in your heart.

All: Amen.

Presider:

Let us go now with God's power and promise of peace to be peacemakers in all we do.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Procession & Hymn: GO NOW IN PEACE (Praise & Blessing)

Class representatives carrying the lit peace candles lead the procession out of the worship area – a symbol of taking Jesus' peace out into the world. The white balloons may be carried out in procession and released outdoors as a peace symbol while the community is leaving the worship space.

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Duration of Liturgy: Approximately 35 minutes

Props & Resources:

- Bells – various types
- White helium balloons
- Large Peace Candle
- Lectionary
- Peace candles – one for each class

People Required:

- Reader of Introduction
- Bell ringers
- Bearers of white balloons
- Candle bearer
- Lectionary bearer
- Readers (3) for Penitential Rite
- Reader for First Reading
- Reader for Gospel
- Homilist
- Readers (5) for Prayer of the Faithful
- Group representatives from the community to light a peace candle

Music Notes: These songs and hymns are suggestions only – there are many others that you would know that are suitable for this celebration. It is important to remember that in choosing music for this liturgy, whatever is chosen needs to support and enhance the ritual for which it is being used, as well as be known and appreciated by the community. (See Music Notes Page on this site).

- **Peacemaker** (Peter Kearney – Celebration Plus CD)
- **Remember, We Are Your People** (Tony Barr – As One Voice For Kids)
- **Celtic Alleluia** (Walker & O'Carroll – Gather Australia & As One Voice/Vol. 1)
- **Instrumental music** (Tony O'Connor CDs)
- **Peace Is Flowing** (Carey Landry – Glory & Praise Vol. 1)
- **Go Now In Peace** (Monica Brown – Praise & Blessing)