



Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Welcome

“Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43: 19)

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures! **Amen.**
Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Creator of all
to you be praise and glory forever
as your dawn renews the face of the Earth
bringing light and life to all creation
bring hope to your people.
May we rejoice in this day you have made
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to work for justice for all of
creation,
that the world may rejoice together and give you praise.

(Adapted from Lancelot Andrewes, 1626)



Opening song – La paix du soir

Song by Raymond Fau



La paix du soir, vient sur la Terre
La paix du soir, vient dans nos cœurs
Comme un encens que ma prière
Monte vers toi ce soir, Seigneur

Toi, notre père, toi qui nous aimes tant
Toi, notre père, écoute tes enfants

La paix du soir (la paix du soir), vient sur la Terre
La paix du soir (la paix du soir), vient dans nos cœurs
Comme un encens (comme un encens) que ma prière
Monte vers toi (monte vers toi) ce soir, Seigneur

Toi, notre père, garde-nous de la peur
Toi, notre père, reviens changer nos cœurs

La paix du soir, vient sur la Terre
La paix du soir, vient dans nos cœurs
Comme un encens que ma prière
Monte vers toi ce soir, Seigneur

Toi, notre père, garde-nous dans ta joie
Toi, notre père, garde-nous près de toi

La paix du soir, vient sur la Terre
La paix du soir, vient dans nos cœurs
Comme un encens que ma prière
Monte vers toi ce soir, Seigneur



Psalm 85

(Prayed in two sides)

We are presently more aware than ever of the link between fossil fuels, and violence and war. Let us pray and proclaim with the Psalmist:

Lord, you poured out blessings on your land!
You restored the fortunes of Israel.
You forgave the guilt of your people—
yes, you covered all their sins.

May love and truth meet together Let justice and mercy kiss

You held back your fury.
You kept back your blazing anger.
Now restore us again, O God of our salvation.
Put aside your anger against us once more.
Will you be angry with us always?
Will you prolong your wrath to all generations?
Won't you revive us again,
so your people can rejoice in you?

May love and truth meet together Let justice and mercy kiss

Show us your unfailing love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying,
for he speaks peace to his faithful people.
But let them not return to their foolish ways.
Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
so our land will be filled with his glory.
Unfailing love and truth have met together.
Justice and peace have kissed!

May love and truth meet together Let justice and peace kiss

Truth springs up from the Earth,
and righteousness smiles down from heaven.
Yes, the Lord pours down his blessings.
Our land will yield its bountiful harvest.
Righteousness goes as a herald before him,
preparing the way for his steps.

May love and truth meet together Let justice and peace kiss

(Adapted from the New Living Translation)



Litany of repentance



Leader - God of light, life and love,
 God of land, and sea, and sky,
 Who called creation into existence and wove it into a rich
 tapestry, a fine mat, a web of life
 Your Spirit hovered over the face of the primordial waters,
 And was breathed into humankind after You made us
 equally in Your image.

Spanish reader - Tu Espíritu revoloteó sobre la faz de las aguas primordiales.
 Y fue insuflado en la humanidad después de habernos hecho
 igualmente a Tu imagen.
 Tu Verbo se hizo carne y encarnó Tu amor divino al arraigar y
 fructificar en nosotras y nosotros, restaurando nuestra relación
 contigo.

Italian reader – Eppure non abbiamo onorato questa relazione con Te e con il
 resto della Tua Creazione.
 Abbiamo mancato di rispetto alla rete della vita
 Abbiamo svalutato la bella stuovia ecologica che hai tessuto con
 tanto amore
 Abbiamo sradicato il Tuo albero della vita e lo abbiamo venduto
 come tronchi.
 Abbiamo dimenticato che sudiamo e piangiamo acqua salata e
 abbiamo inquinato i Tuoi oceani e fiumi... oceani che invocano
 giustizia e fiumi che invocano giustizia.

French reader - Alors que tout ce qui a un souffle devrait Te louer, toute la
 Création gémit de douleur. Les arbres et le phytoplancton
 étouffent à cause du carbone que rejettent notre désir d'avoir
 plus et du peu d'attention que nous donnons.
 Autour de nous, nous assistons aux conséquences de notre
 péché écologique, alors que nous extrayons et exploitons, que
 nous profanons et pillons nos frères et soeurs de la création:
 Vagues de chaleur et feux de forêts
 Hivers rudes
 Sécheresses et inondations
 Niveau de la mer plus élevé et augmentation de la température
 des océans
 Cyclones, typhons et ouragans toujours plus violents.

English reader - Yet we are blind
 Creation roars in pain
 Yet we are deaf
 You call us in Christ, to speak truth to power and peace to
 this planet, our common home



Yet we are silent.
 God of hope and healing
 May your Rivers of Righteousness
 Wash away our apathy, our greed and selfishness and
 reveal the deep relationships You created for us with all
 creation.
 Nourish us with the water of life that restores, turning
 deserts of despair into oases of hope.



All together – May the waves of Your embrace
 Transform us back into guardians of Your creation.
 May the currents of Your justice
 Carry us to Your lagoon of peace
 Where all creation may enjoy
 Life in abundance.

Leader - We pray in the name of the one who came so that the whole
 cosmos may have everlasting life,
 Jesus the Christ,
 Amen.

Leader - In God there is forgiveness.

All together: Loving and all-seeing God,
 forgive us where we have failed to support one another
 and to be what we claim to be.
 Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
 and where our thoughts and actions have been
 contrary to yours we ask your pardon.

Leader - God forgives us; be at peace.

[Silence]

Rejoice and be glad,
 for Christ is resurrection,
 reconciliation for all the human race
 And for the whole of creation.

Amen.

(Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book - Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)



Song: Spirit of God in the Clear Running Water

by Bob Rowe



Spirit of God in the clear running water
 Blowing to greatness the trees on the hill
 Spirit of God in the finger of morning
 Fill the Earth, bring it to birth
 And blow where you will
 Blow, blow, blow 'til I be
 But the breath of the Spirit blowing in me

Down in the meadow, the willows are moaning
 Sheep in the pastureland cannot lie still
 Spirit of God, creation is groaning
 Fill the earth, bring it to birth
 And blow where you will
 Blow, blow, blow 'til I be
 But the breath of the Spirit blowing in me

Reading of Scripture - Amos 5: 21-24

Justice, allied with peace, calls us to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions. Righteousness demands that we live in peace, not conflict with our human neighbors, and building right relationships with all of creation. We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all creation and to converge our individual identities, of name, family or faith community, in this greater movement for justice, just like tributaries come together to form a mighty river. Let us hear the words of prophet Amos:

*I can't stand your religious meetings.
 I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.
 I want nothing to do with your religion projects,
 your pretentious slogans and goals.
 I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,
 your public relations and image making.
 I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.
 When was the last time you sang to me?
 Do you know what I want?
 I want justice—oceans of it.
 I want fairness—rivers of it.
 That's what I want. That's all I want.* (The Message Translation)



Intercessory Prayers



Leader - Creator and Redeemer, as we approach you in prayer, make us walk in beauty and balance. Make us open our hearts and minds. Make us speak the truth. We pray for your community, the Church, the Body of Christ. We pray for all our relatives in the circle of life throughout all Creation, for those chosen to be our leaders and teachers.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Reader 1 (French) - Nous nous tournons vers la Terre, notre planète, avec ses profondeurs sublimes, ses hautes altitudes et ses eaux profondes, sa vitalité et sa vie en abondance, et, ensemble, nous lui demandons

De nous apprendre et nous montrer la voie.

Reader 2 (Spanish) - Invocamos a las montañas y los desiertos, a los altos valles verdes y las praderas cubiertas de flores silvestres, a las nieves, a las cumbres de intenso silencio, y pedimos:

Que nos enseñen y nos muestren el camino.

Reader 3 (Italian) - Invochiamo la terra che coltiva il nostro cibo, il suolo fertile, i campi fertili, gli abbondanti giardini e frutteti, e chiediamo:

Che possano insegnarci e mostrarci la via.

Reader 4 (English) - We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky with earth in their roots and the heavens in their branches, the fir and the pine and the cedar and we ask:

That they may teach us and show us the way.

Reader 5 (Spanish) - Invocamos a las criaturas de los campos, los bosques y los mares, nuestras hermanas y nuestros hermanos, los lobos y los ciervos, el águila y la paloma, las grandes ballenas y el delfín. Y pedimos:

Que nos enseñen y nos muestren el camino.

Reader 6 (French) - Nous nous tournons vers celles et ceux qui ont vécu sur cette Terre, nos ancêtres et nos amies et amis, qui ont rêvé du meilleur pour les générations à venir, sur la vie de qui nos vies sont bâties, et en leur rendant grâce, nous leur demandons aussi

De nous apprendre et nous montrer la voie.



Reader 7 (Italian) - Chiediamo alle nazioni del mondo di ascoltare il grido di coloro che hanno perso la casa, la vita e la speranza a causa del cambiamento climatico. Possano ascoltare il grido di coloro le cui scuole, chiese, ospedali, strade e infrastrutture sono state danneggiate. Preghiamo per la giustizia e per la pace:
Che possano insegnarci e mostrarci la via.



Reader 8 (English) - We pray for all victims of war and violence. We pray for countries where the greed for oil and gas are leading to war. We hold in our hearts those areas where fossil fuel projects have destabilized communities and human rights abuses have occurred. We pray for areas where climate change has led to drought and conflict over water and resources is taking place. May we respond to the cry of the Earth and those living in poverty, as peacemakers who challenge the violence that threatens us all. We ask:
That they may teach us and show us the way.

Leader - Creator, you made the world and declared it to be good: the beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, the fragrance of the grass speaks to us; the summit of the mountains, the thunder of the sky, the rhythm of the lakes speak to us; the faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning, the dewdrops on the flower speak to us. But above all, our heart soars, for you speak to us in Jesus the Christ, in whose name we offer these prayers.

Amen.

(Adapted from Prayers of the People, the Church of the Four Winds, Portland Oregon.)

Our Father
(Pray in your language)

Blessing

(We pray together according to the indicated language)

English - May we be blessed to open our hearts to receive “the living waters of God’s justice and peace” within us:

Amen.

Spanish - Que seamos bendecidas y bendecidos para compartir “las aguas vivas de la justicia y la paz de Dios” con nuestras hermanas y nuestros hermanos que sufren y con todas las criaturas que nos rodean:

Amen.



French - Puissions-nous être béni-e-s pour marcher ensemble avec toutes les personnes de bonne volonté de sorte que les nombreuses rivières des «eaux vivantes de la justice et de la paix de Dieu» deviennent un fleuve puissant sillonnant toute la Terre:

Amen.



Italian - E possa Dio benedirvi in questo viaggio. Nel nome del Padre, del Figlio e dello Spirito Santo.

Amen.

Closing Song

Peace is Flowing Like a River

Song by Carey Landry

1. Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.
2. Joy is flowing like a river,...
3. Faith is flowing like a river, ...
4. Hope is flowing like a river,...
5. Love is flowing like a river, ...
6. Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia.

Thank you for your participation!
Have a blessed Season of Creation. May Justice
and Peace flow like a river out of your prayer and
action!

