May a powerful cry for peace go up from every land. -- Pope Francis

St. Francis Church
Sacramento, CA
Deborah Long
GATHERING SONG

Sr. Peggy gestures for assembly to stand for Gathering Song
[candles of the assembly are lit by Candlebearers during the singing of this song]

God of Day and God of Darkness

Beach Spring

God of day and God of darkness, now we stand before the night;
As the shadows stretch and deepen, come and make our darkness bright.
All creation still is groaning for the dawning of your might,
when the Sun of peace and justice fills the earth with radiant light.

Still the nations curse the darkness, still the rich oppress the poor;
still the earth is bruised and broken by the ones who still want more.
Come and wake us from our sleeping, so our hearts cannot ignore,
all your people lost and broken, all your children at our door.

Show us Christ in one another, make us servants strong and true;
give us all your love of justice so we do what you would do.
Let us call all people holy, let us pledge our lives anew,
make us one with all the lowly, let us all be one in you.

You shall be the path that guides us, you the light that in us burns;
Shining deep within all people, yours the love that we must learn,
For our hearts shall wander restless 'til they safe to you return;
finding you in one another, we shall all your face discern.

Praise to you in day and darkness, you our source and you our end;
Praise to you who love and nurture us as a father, mother, friend.
Grant us all a peaceful resting, let each mind and body mend,
So we rise refreshed tomorrow, hearts renewed to Kingdom tend.

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PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

LITANY

[Paschal candle on top of altar platform; 12 unlit large votive candles are on altar; Candle Lighter and 3 candlebearers move to paschal candle/votives; speakers come forward one at time to foot of sanctuary steps, speak, then return to seat during singing.

After each reader speaks, and singing starts, 3 candlebearers pick up 3 votives from altar, have them lit by CandleLighter, then place votives on sanctuary steps, while assembly sings; Candlebearers return to position at altar and pick up 3 new votives; repeat 4 times]

SR. PEGGY: [from foot of sanctuary steps]

We begin, as we begin all things...
In the name of the Father,
and the Son and the Holy Spirit.  +Amen

As we gather this evening, we recall the deep bond we have with all the people of our earth.
We join our minds and hearts with all our sisters and brothers, for we are one.

Please be seated.

SUNG RESPONSE: Music begins, plays through 1x, then cantor sings 1x, then all sing 2x

Instrumental continues softly under all the speaking
LITANY

**JUDY:**
I am the mother climbing over the rubble of destroyed buildings blocking the streets in Aleppo, hoping to find my children.

I am the aid worker in Darfur, unable to receive needed medical supplies, hoping that tomorrow a shipment will be able to get safely through.

I am the soldier in Egypt, hoping the day will not bring orders to fire on my own people.

I am your sister.
I am your brother.
We are one.

*SUNG RESPONSE 1X*

Give peace in our time, O God, in our hearts, in our homes, in our land, in our world. Give peace in our time, O God
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

LITANY

PENNY:
I am the grandmother fleeing the violence Nigeria in with only the clothes on my back, hoping to find a little peace in the refugee camp.

I am the doctor in Damascus, overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of wounded, hoping I can save at least a few of them.

I am the veiled woman in Iraq, afraid for my policeman husband, hoping he will not become a victim of the religious extremists.

I am your sister.
I am your brother.
We are one.
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

LITANY

JIM:
I am the shop keeper in Israel, sifting through the bombed out remains of my shop, hoping that there is enough to re-open tomorrow.

I am the young woman in the Democratic Republic of Congo, hoping that tonight I can sleep without fear.

I am the child in Mali, playing with my brother in a local field, hoping that we make it safely through the unexploded remnants of war.

I am your sister. I am your brother. We are one.

SUNG RESPONSE 1X

Give peace in our time, O God, in our hearts, in our homes, in our land, in our world. Give peace in our time, O God.
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

LITANY

MARTA:
I am the North Korean grandfather, separated from family members in the South for decades, hoping someday I will get to see them again.

I am the young girl in Afghanistan whose school was torn down, hoping someday it will not be against the law for girls to go to school.

I am the new father in Gaza, hoping my son will be able to grow up in a country that is not at war.

I am your sister.
I am your brother.
We are one.

SUNG RESPONSE 2X

Give peace in our time, O God, in our hearts, in our homes, in our land, in our world. Give peace in our time, O God.
GATHERING PRAYER

SR. PEGGY:

O God, heart of all mercy and love,
Tonight, all over the world, your people, your children,
gather to pray for peace.
Although our hearts are heavy
with the suffering of so many of our brothers and sisters
around the world living in the midst of violent conflict,
yet the promise of your mercy and peace
fills our hearts with hope.
We ask you to bring healing to those
suffering from the violence,
and comfort to those mourning the dead.
Empower and encourage neighbouring countries
in their care and welcome for refugees.
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,
and strengthen the resolve of those committed to peace.
Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence
and to seek reconciliation with enemies.
Open our hearts and minds tonight
to the conversion necessary to be people of peace.
Like St. Francis did with the Sultan,
show us how to reach out beyond our comfort zone,
to actively share the promise of peace.
We pray always in and with and through your Son,
Jesus, Prince of Peace and Light of the World.

+Amen
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

FIRST READING  Lao-Tse

All 5 readers come forward and stand at foot of altar steps facing assembly lined up in order of speaking; Bob has hand-held mic; he passes it to Jan, who passes it to Serge, etc.

BOB:  From Lao-Tse, a chinese philosoper from the 6th century Before Christ...

If there is to be peace in the world, There must be peace in the nations.

JAN:  If there is to be peace in the nations, There must be peace in the cities.

SERGE:  If there is to be peace in the cities, There must be peace between neighbors.

LORETTA:  If there is to be peace between neighbors, There must be peace in the home.

THERESA:  If there is to be peace in the home, There must be peace in the heart.

All 5 PAUSE for count of 5, then return to seats

Quiet Meditation
SUNG RESPONSE  Peace Prayer

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet. Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet. Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.

Light before us, light behind us, light under our feet. Light within us, light over us, let all around us be light.

Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet. Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet. Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

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Faced with the question of what is wrong with the world, is there anyone who couldn’t readily recite a litany of injustices that exist?

Faced with another question of how we personally and individually contribute to these injustices, could we respond as quickly?

Probing my own mind for honest answers to that question has been very difficult. It uncovers truths about myself that reveal how deeply I am in need of conversion.
My attitudes and actions do indeed stand in the way of justice and peace: the resentments and grudges I hold; the vengeances I seek; my desire to the upper hand; my charity to the poor that comes only from my excess without any sacrifice; the possessions I cling to; the resources I waste; the companies I invest in and the purchases I make; my silence when I should speak out and my speaking out when I should be silent; the racism and prejudices I like to think don’t exist—and much more.

The journey to truth is a painful one. I’ve come to believe that it’s much easier to rally with others against war or around a cause that can change the world than it is to grapple with what it takes to change myself. Difficult as it is, people of faith are continually called by God to transformation and conversion. With this call in mind, if we want peace, then we work for justice and we must begin with ourselves.”

Quiet Meditation
SUNG RESPONSE

Make Me An Instrument Of Your Peace

Marty Haugen

(Cantor) Where there is hatred, (All) let me bring love;
(Cantor) Where there is injury, (All) let me bring pardon;
(Cantor) Where there is doubting, (All) let me bring faith.

(Refrain) Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

(Cantor) Where there is despairing, (All) let me bring hope;
(Cantor) Where there is darkness, (All) let me bring light;
(Cantor) Where there is sadness, (All) let me bring joy.

(Refrain)

O Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

(Refrain)

(Cantor) For it is in giving (All) that we receive;
(Cantor) and it is in pardoning, (All) that we are pardoned;
(Cantor) and it is in dying, (All) that we are born.

(Refrain)
THIRD READING Matthew 5:39-45

SR. PEGGY: From Matthew’s Gospel...

Jesus told them,

“You have heard that it was said,

'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

But I say to you,

offer no resistance to one who is evil.

When someone strikes you on your right cheek,

turn the other one as well.

If anyone wants to go to law with you

over your tunic,

hand over your cloak as well.

Should anyone press you into service for one mile,

go for two miles.

Give to the one who asks of you,

and do not turn your back

on one who wants to borrow.

You have heard that it said,

'You shall love your neighbor

and hate your enemy.'

But I say to you,

love your enemies,

and pray for those who persecute you.”

Quiet Meditation
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

SUNG RESPONSE  World Peace Prayer

(Refrain) Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our universe.

Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
Still now you people die, earth’s sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
come and teach us your way of compassion.

So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
Longing for love to break into their darkness.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
we can still be your way of compassion.

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Sisters and brothers, for those we are especially aware of this day, we lift our hearts and voices in prayer to our compassionate God...

For all who are living in fear amidst armed conflict and war...  
[PAUSE]
For our sisters and brothers, we pray...Show us your mercy, O God... **AND GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**

For all who are mourning the violent loss of loved ones...  
[PAUSE]
For our sisters and brothers, we pray...Show us your mercy, O God... **AND GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**

For all who have been wounded in body, mind or spirit by the violence...  
[PAUSE]
For our sisters and brothers, we pray...Show us your mercy, O God... **AND GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**

For all who have fled their homes and are living in refugee camps...  
[PAUSE]
For our sisters and brothers, we pray...Show us your mercy, O God... **AND GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

For all who are working to bring aid into war torn areas...  
[PAUSE]  
For our sisters and brothers, we pray...Show us your mercy, O God...  
**AND GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**

For world leaders, departments of state, ambassadors, and diplomats ...  
[PAUSE]  
For our sisters and brothers, we pray...Show us your mercy, O God...  
**AND GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**

For all who in any way further the cause of peace...  
[PAUSE]  
For our sisters and brothers, we pray...Show us your mercy, O God...  
**AND GRANT US YOUR PEACE.**

God of tender compassion,  
Hear the powerful cry for peace  
that has gone up from every land.  
Renew our hope and faith,  
so that we may be instruments  
of your grace and peace for each other,  
for our communities, and for our world.  
We pray now and forever  
in the name of the Prince of Peace.  +Amen
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

SR. PEGGY: We pray as Jesus taught us... Our Father...

BLESSING AND SENDING

SR. PEGGY: I now invite you to turn towards the aisle and to raise your hands in blessing over one another. And repeat after me...

SR. PEGGY: May God Bless and keep you.
ALL: MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU.

SR. PEGGY: May God’s face shine on you and be gracious to you.
ALL: MAY GOD’S FACE SHINE ON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU.

SR. PEGGY: May God look upon you kindly and give you peace.
ALL: MAY GOD LOOK UPON YOU KINDLY AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

SR. PEGGY: We are sent forth to be peace in our World.
PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE

SENDING FORTH  We Shall Overcome

1. We shall o-ver-come, we shall o-ver-come,
we shall o-ver-come some-day.
we shall o-ver-come some-day.
we shall o-ver-come some-day.

2. We’ll walk hand in hand, we’ll walk hand in hand,
we’ll walk hand in hand some-day.
we’ll walk hand in hand some-day.
we shall live in peace some-day.

3. We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace some-day.
we shall live in peace some-day.
we shall live in peace some-day.

Text: adapt. by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger
Tune: adapt. by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger; harm. by J. Jefferson Cleveland, Jr. 1937, from Songs of Zion
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