

ADVENTIST
PEACE
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Let Us Be Peacemakers

An Adventist Peace Sabbath Liturgy

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Gathering Hymn #8

“We Gather Together”

Invocation

Searcher of Hearts,
kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace and justice;
guide with your wisdom those who take counsel
for the nations of the earth,
so that in tranquility your dominion may increase
until the whole earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace, who lives
and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophets NRSV Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

A Reading from the Psalms NRSV Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
 “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
Our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city
 that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
 the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 “May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
 and security within your towers.”
For the sake of my relatives and friends
 I will say, “Peace be within you.”
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
 I will seek your good.

Hymn #345 “Christ Is the World’s True Light”

A Reading from the Epistles NRSV Ephesians 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

General Litany

A Reading from the Gospels NRSV Luke 6:27-36

But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Homily

“Let Us Be Peacemakers”

The Common Ending to Each Petition: *Lord, as you make us complete*

The Common Response to Each Petition: *Let us be peacemakers and the light of the world*

Father of all nature and Lord of the Church,
You formed our world in creation and redeemed it by becoming
our brother among the least of us:

With your word and work, energize and strengthen
our world for peace,
our church in welfare
and our unity with all people,

So that our faith in your kingdom will grow stronger each day;
Lord as you make us complete:

Let the rumors about your people be good news.

Uphold the members of your universal Church and cause us in
our various denominational branches to share the witness of
Jesus' love and justice

Whether we be Bishop, Presbyter, or President,
Pastor, priest, or deacon,
laity, baptismal candidate or guest congregant,
may our motives be true;

Lord as you make us complete:

Let the rumors about your people be good news.

Through nature and our witness, teach those who govern us,
Especially the heads of state, presidents, monarchs or
prime ministers,

Law makers, judicial rulers,
And local magistrates

That they may serve in a manner worthy of the honor to which
they are called;

Lord as you make us complete:

Let the rumors about your people be good news.

Grant us an abundant yield of the earth's produce and the
wisdom to distribute it fairly;

Turn the conflicts between religious traditions into the soil of
respectful sharing and witness of your work in our world.

Lord as you make us complete:

Let the rumors about your people be good news.

Restore hope and dignity to those who suffer
Heal the sick,
Shelter the refugee,
Comfort those who sorrowful and mourning
Make us all to persevere—knowing that your work in us is not
finished yet, but in the mean time;
Lord as you make us complete:
Let the rumors about your people be good news.

With grace accept these and all our prayers,
and grant us the patience to await the time of your answer;
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. ***Amen.***

Communion Hymn #271 “Break Thou the Bread of Life”

Sending Hymn #636 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Benediction NRSV Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.