Litany for Shalom

I.
L: And Jesus said:
C: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

L: Skipping, running, hopping, laughing, they tumble at us, full of merriment, of wonder, of questions; making games of everything – even war.
C: Listen to the songs of peace from children.

L: Creating, supporting, comforting, nurturing, mending, they shape new lives, promises for the future.
C: Listen to the songs of peace from parents.

L: Building, reasoning, planning, they make meaning for their own lives while enriching the lives of others, building a human community.
C: Listen to the songs of peace from citizens of all nations.

II.
L: As Christians seeking to follow the way of our Lord
C: We would be peacemakers.

L: Eternal God, who suffers as we suffer, grace us with courage to search for peace in our lives and through our living.
C: We will be peace-seekers.

L: We offer ourselves to the peace we know, the peace that comes from you.
C: We will be peaceful persons.

L: Grant us the wisdom to recognize the ways to peace in our lives.
C: We will pursue peace; encourage us. We will seek to make peace; embolden us.

L: Peace comes through understanding the point of view of others.
C: Let us set our hearts on the light of peace.

L: Let us sift through the trivia of our experience and focus on the significant.
C: Let us give peace a chance.

III.
L: As believers in God, the author of life,
C: We accept life; We love life; We appreciate life in its immensity and variety.

L: Within our scattered minutes and distracted moments,
C: Our faith is secure.

L: In spite of the storms and signals of evil,
C: Our faith is secure.

L: Notwithstanding the fact that our earth is ravaged by greedy and unknowing mortals,
C: Our faith is secure.

L: Knowing that fallible human beings control the centers of government and business, centers on which our future depends,
C: Our faith is secure.

L: Hearing the humming computer linked to missiles with nuclear warheads that could devastate the earth,
C: Our faith is secure.

L: We accept the love and light available to each of us in vicissitudes of each day’s happenings.
C: Our faith is secure.

L: Even in our fragileness and vulnerability and scatteredness,
C: Our faith is secure.

IV.
L: Now, among the greening hills of Spring, in this season of rebirth,
C: We pledge ourselves to peace.

L: In a world where war rages among nations; among communities; among companions; within our individual hearts
C: We pledge ourselves to peace.

L: Though we must pay a price - in dollars; in hours; in prestige; in pain,
C: We pledge ourselves to peace.

L: Because this world is one world, founded in the creative urge of God, born of the living love of God, shaped by the powerful hands of God,
C: We pledge ourselves to peace.

L: To keep our pledge, we will need courage.
C: We pray for courage - for the will to face ridicule and scorn and rage; for the endurance to persist when success is uncertain; for the strength to take risks; for the boldness to undertake suffering.

L: We make our pledge in full awareness that we cannot control everything; We take responsibility for our own actions, And leave the results to you, God.
C: In the beginning was the Word. In the end will be the Word.

L: In the spirit of Christ, who taught us about abundant life and who exemplified the peace of God

ALL: We pledge ourselves to peace. AMEN

From Baptist Peacemaker, October 1985.