



Order of Worship 🌸 September 20, 2020

Trinity 🌸 Church of the Isles

To view the entire service, click on:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr2IwlWThmmQ_kBWHcZc6xmgkdHkLBdqD

Welcome to All “Welcome to Peace”

<https://youtu.be/8n7ZJBBcRno>

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

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Shelly Wilson <https://youtu.be/gjP6NoPMPfE>

The International Day of Peace (September 21) was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

The United Nations invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace. The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Shaping Peace Together.” Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in



the face of the pandemic. May we stand together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred. Join us so that we can shape peace together.

Call to Worship

**Inspired by the Dec. 10, 2007 Human Rights Liturgy by the World Student Christian Federation—Asia-Pacific*

Susan Gilbert <https://youtu.be/kWqgEVaRsy0>

Friends,

Let us enter into this space together to worship the Holy One. Let us rejoice, for God offers us freedom and gives us the Spirit, inviting all to be children of God, living free from fear and insignificance. We come to walk with Jesus; and with all the martyrs and saints and prophets who walked down the streets of the cities, across the bridges, and throughout the countryside. We come to remember the simple act of walking as defiance against oppression, and the simple act of love and solidarity to stand against injustice and to intervene with our own lives and love to help make peace. O, God we come!

Opening Song “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

(Jackson/Sims) Miami Dade Student Chorus <https://youtu.be/oSRgmqJhTu8>

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator, family all are we; Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Time for Children

Mindy Picardo <https://youtu.be/MgTeQ4bR4gw>

Offering: Financial support for our churches is essential, now more than ever. Thank you for your faithful giving that keeps our ministries going! Please mail in your offerings to your church:

Church of the Isles
Att. Barb Templin
200 24th Ave.
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

Trinity UCC
Att. Marty Seyler
3155 Featherwood Court
Clearwater, FL 33759

or give online via Pay Pal— www.churchoftheisles.org www.trinityuccstpete.org



Prayer for Peace

Susan Gilbert <https://youtu.be/ReMqxurPKrE>

God, we pray for peace for those who weep in silence,
peace for those who cannot speak,
peace when all hope seems to disappear.

In the midst of rage, of violence and disappointment,
In the midst of wars and destruction of the earth,
God, show us your light in the long shadows of night.
God, we pray for peace for those who raise their voices to demand it,
peace when there are many who do not wish to hear of it,
peace as we find the way to justice.

Keep your church free,
that it may be a channel through which justice and peace,
integrity and wholeness, harmony and goodwill
may flow to the dispossessed and the desperate,
that your beloved community may be realized in all its fulfillment of life and health and
peace.

Amen.

~ from *Prayer for Peace*, adapted from materials from the World Council of Churches
International Day of Peace, produced by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America. Copyright © 2009 World Council of Churches.

Music “Prayer of St. Francis”

Performed by Sarah McLachlan & the students of the McLachlan Music School

<https://youtu.be/agPnMxp5Occ>

Lord make me an instrument of Your peace
Where there is hatred let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness joy.
O Divine 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
For it's in giving that we receive
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born...
To eternal life.

Scripture

John 14: 27

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Sermon “Peace Talks”

Shelly Wilson <https://youtu.be/qWItMFS02BE>

On Monday, the world will celebrate, as best we can this hard, hard year, the International Day of Peace. This day was set aside by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 to designate at least a 24-hour period of nonviolence and cease fire. A day when we learn war no more. All over the world, typically, there are parades and speeches and songs and observances of many kinds, celebrations, and new promises that we will give peace a chance.

This year is the same, and yet, of course, profoundly different. Distanced as we are, still, we sing the songs, pray the prayers, for peace. We affirm the challenges of that simple little song’s words, “let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.” And we know it in our bones, that it feels faraway and difficult, this peace that we claim to want. This centeredness, a belonging for everyone... with unrest, longing, fear, and distrust, abounding, where does it begin, when does peace begin, with me, with us?

Once Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks...” and so I wonder if, at least in part, does peace between us, and perhaps, even within us, begin with communication—with our God, with one another, with ourselves? Most world religions have their seminal peaceful prayers: primary speech to or for, the Earth or the Deity, or the prophets or the enlightened ones or the ancestors. For many Christians that prayer is the Lord’s Prayer. For Jews there is the Shema, a prayer that begins with deep listening (a practice that also leads to peace) “Hear, O Israel...” For Muslims, the Fathia begins with blessing Allah, the Compassionate One, and the Buddhist Metta prayer longs for the realities of connection for all: “May all beings be peaceful. May all beings be happy. May



all beings be safe. May all beings awaken to the light of their true nature. May all beings be free.” Peaceful talk often finds its form in such prayers—expressions of ecstasy or gratitude, pleas for release or relief, the speech of longing for meaning in the face of life’s deepest mysteries.

Ponder this Scripture: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, oh God, my strength and my redeemer.” The words of our mouths originate from the meditations of our hearts. The words have a source like the mountain springs that feed the old homesteads in the mountains where I grew up. The words come from the insides of us, the source of the words to which the Scriptures speak. The motivations of our spirits, the push and grounding of our speech beyond the dictionary meaning of the words themselves emanate from the soul of us. And so, as we seek peace, would we not do well to search our souls for the living water of love, of compassion, and openness? For without a pure source, we may find the communication will be tainted, delivered with something less than the love and peace we claim to believe in. It matters what we say.

Consider how peace does or does not begin with me or with you. I invite you to ponder these communications and their impact upon your ability to be at peace. Think first about your inner speak, what we say internally to ourselves. The measure of healthy inner speak is the degree to which we communicate to ourselves messages that encourage and integrate, affirm and motivate—and if we allow any inner silence to grow that can help bring us to peace with Earth, with other humans, with animals, and with ourselves. In our fast-paced, over-stimulated, hyper-vigilant, and fearfully angry world, is there space and silence and time in which we may even recognize if our self-talk is healthy and compassionate and congruent with our spiritual values? Self-talk that globally blames, judges, or holds me or someone else to an impossibly high standard of perfectionism is not a peaceful voice. Inner speak is the taproot that feeds our souls—are we listening to voices of realistic, holy resilience, of humble awareness, and of appreciative inquiry? Is it peace talk going on inside my head or yours? Does it reflect our highest spiritual values? Remember to take care how you speak to yourself because you are listening!

Also, we commune with others, and like its origin, self-talk, our inter-personal communication can be full of peace or full of war. We recognize that truth, goodness knows, from the daily news, but we also may observe it in our own interactions, as well. What do you and I say to others, about others? How and when do we say it? And with what assumptions do we begin? When Confucius was asked which of his teachings his disciples should practice most tenaciously, “all day and every day,” he pointed to the concept of *shu*, commonly translated as “consideration,” which he explained as striving, “never to do to others what you would not like them to do to you.” It was, for Confucius, the very definition of what it meant to be human, this ideal of *shu* and many centuries



later, Jesus of Nazareth named it as the greatest of the Jewish commandments, too—to love God and to love one’s neighbor as one’s self.

Peace begins with humility, listening, connections, and talk. But peace is not just talk—it leads us to action. It requires the hard decisions of us—our personal investment. If we say with our mouths: Let peace for Earth begin with me, then we must make space and give place to the reality that our attention must be drawn first to our Mother Planet. In peace, we must monitor our own use of resources and our daily treatment of others—non-human and human alike, aware of the ways we speak and act from the strength of true and insistent compassion, speaking and doing what is right. Peace means that we dare to listen to hear—to learn, to speak and to act for racial justice, for food security, for equity in voting rights, education, housing, medical care, and basic human decency. We must live and speak nonviolent conflict resolution at church, in the workplace, and in the home, so that domestic violence no longer is any child’s daily bread. Peace talk-- let it begin with us—it is big talk, but let it be writ large even in our little life stories.

Here is one of mine: once I was in an International Day of Peace walk, and a man behind me was walking with his son in the crowd. They had been chanting a little peace mantra along with everyone else, when then, on the edge of my hearing, I realized they had stopped and now they were arguing. The father said kindly, but with that edge of tension to his voice that always sounds so snippy and bitter and old crone-like when I taste it in my mouth. He was edgy, but kind when he said, “I won’t do this with you right now. I won’t. But later on, we can talk.” But the boy, about ten-years-old, pulled away from him roughly, and started running ahead of us, down the street, outside and inside the peaceful parade. I thought how in our anger, we run from each other’s limits and hurt, sometimes. Then, as the ironical peace parade continued, and there was another boy directly in front of me, we passed by the doors of some shops all decorated for the day with beautiful, peaceful doves. Just as we reached the door of a happy candy shop, a man and a teenaged girl exited the store, directly into his path, causing him to stop on a dime, but without missing a beat, he shouted at them, “Peace, forever!” and with a dazzling smile, he high-fived the man and the girl. Amazed, I said to him, “Wow! That was cool! You were so brave to high-five those two strangers that way, for peace!” And he said, smiling, “Not really that brave, that’s my dad and sister!”

The stream of peace, our best intentions, always are flowing, always in process. We speak, we hear, we try, and we wait. We touch each other, pull away, and run, we hurt each other, but then we work to find one another again. Proverbs says, “the words of the wise bring healing,” and sometimes it takes more courage to high-five it or to forgive it or to communicate it, harder to give peace a chance when it’s your own family at war.



Swirling in it all, especially this year, are the questions and the possibilities. Give peace a chance. What would it take for you? For me? Here's one thing it will take: for us to remember who and whose we are—what is in our hands that we can control for good and what it will take for us to breathe easy and to live in our own integrity. What about it? What will it take for you to breathe easy and to live from your own integrity in situations that are not peaceful for you? There exists deep fragmentation in our world, as you well know. There are the real differences that challenge peace talk. It cannot happen, peace, without justice and equity for all. The injustice, the danger, the fear, and the pain, will erode peace and faith and compassion if we do not live as Christ did and taught. But every day is a day to be lived in peace. Peace talk is not just words. We are invited to embody peace. May peace begin with us. Amen.

Benediction “A Prayer for Peace and Healing”—St. Teresa of Avila

May we be at peace. May our hearts remain open. May we be aware of our true nature. May we be healed. May we be a source of healing to others. May we dwell in the breath of God. May it be so. Amen.

Closing Music “This is My Song”

-Finlandia performed by The Peacemaking Project Virtual

Choir <https://youtu.be/DRmLZNL4EB8>

They write: “In light of the Covid-19 global pandemic, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program embarked on this project to bring together a global virtual choir of peacemakers, including past International Peacemakers and their hosts, participants in our Travel Study Seminars and Mosaic of Peace Conferences in Israel and Palestine, and friends and colleagues of our Program. As we join our voices in song, we join our hearts and efforts in a continuing and resolute desire for peace in and between every land. “So hear my song, o God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.” The peace of Christ be with you!

Prayer concerns:

- ❖ Susan’s friend, Malcolm, diagnosis of cancer, surgery September 25, his wife, Sharon
- ❖ Susan’s friend, Teri’s brother, Doug, diagnosis of cancer
- ❖ Marty & Cate’s friend, Aidan, in the birth and death of her infant
- ❖ Cathy’s friend, Jennifer, in the death of her husband, Steve



- ❖ All those grieving losses of loved ones from COVID, other illnesses, accidents, and violence
- ❖ Those recovering from illness, surgery, and treatments: Shirley, Vivian, & Lo
- ❖ Students, parents, teachers, and administrators
- ❖ Healthcare and other essential workers
- ❖ Those living with mental illness, domestic violence, and addiction challenges
- ❖ Those who have lost loved ones, possessions, homes, and hope, in the aftermath of hurricanes and fires
- ❖ Those exhausted and endangered by systemic violence and racism
- ❖ Those affected by food insecurity, war, and oppression
- ❖ The Earth, effects of global climate change.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Strengthen our willing hands and feet, and hearts to act in ways that lead to the justice for which we pray. Amen.

Announcements

- ❖ WANT TO JOIN A ZOOM GROUP? Email Shelly at wilsonshellya@yahoo.com
- ❖ Contemplative Prayer Thursdays 9:30 AM
- ❖ Racial Justice Study of Ibram X. Kendi's *How to be an Antiracist* Sundays 4:00 PM.
- ❖ **COMING SOON!** Outdoors, socially distanced, close-in-heart!
- ❖ **Communion, Cans, & Cereal Events!**
 - Sunday, September 27, 6:30 PM Church of the Isles
 - Monday, September 28, 7:00 PM Trinity UCC

Bring your mask, cans of protein, and boxes of cereal to share with Good Samaritan Food Pantry and join us!

ALSO COMING SOON! Virtual hymn-sing! Email Shelly your favorite hymns or spiritual songs! We will have a special ALL Music Sunday—with Shirley Hand, Winston Culler, and favorite you tube stars, as needed! But we need to know YOUR favorites! Send 'em in! Deadline is **tomorrow, September 21.**