

Peace
Sunday
2024

Our peace identity and responsibility



Worship resources

Every year on September 21, we celebrate the International Day of Peace. This year's theme, "Cultivating a Culture of Peace," marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopting the [Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace](#). Through this declaration, the UN emphasized that peace is not only an absence of conflict and violence, but requires equitable partnerships and mutual collaboration. Congregations are encouraged to celebrate and pray for peace on Sunday, September 22, or on another Sunday.

According to a recent [World Bank report](#), about 60% of impoverished populations live in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence. The UN's [2024 Global Appeal](#) report on displacement predicts the number of people internally displaced by violence and conflict will reach almost 63 million this year. These situations are driven by many complex dynamics, including global inequality, instability, climate hazards and irresponsible mining.

MCC U.S. National Peace
& Justice Ministries



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

mcc.org

Above: Mrs. Fahida, secretary of her Women Situation Room group in Baraka village, Fizi territory, DR Congo, explains how to use the mechanism of five fingers to resolve a conflict. Photo courtesy of Ngema Mnonge/OASIS de la Culture

Worship resources



Colette Koy Mazau, a sixth-grade math teacher at Malwanu Institute in Kanzombi, Kwilu Province, DR Congo, has been trained in peace, trauma awareness, healing and child protection. Many of her students have been displaced by violence in the Kasai region. MCC/Fairpicture photo/Justin Makangara

Suggested songs

VT 33 You Are Good

VT 52 Confitemini Domino
(Come and Fill Our Hearts)

VT 391 Ososo (Come Now,
O Prince of Peace)

VT 398 Thy Word Is a Lamp

VT 787 O Day of Peace

VT = *Voices Together* hymnal. Harrisonburg, VA: MennoMedia, 2020.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) addresses the root causes of violence globally and in the U.S. by supporting partners in vulnerable communities that nurture a culture of peace and work for a more just society. In countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), Nigeria, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, MCC supports the work of peacebuilding, peacemaking, caring for God's creation and supporting communities harmed by climate change. In these countries and others, we see deteriorating situations of human brokenness as millions are forcefully displaced from their lands and homes. Those displaced often face trauma, the loss of livelihoods, and preventable, life-threatening health conditions.

We are reminded in Scripture of our calling to embody peace as followers and ambassadors of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 5:9; Ephesians 2:15-17). The confession of our faith reflects the character of our identity and the uncompromised responsibility to continue Christ's ministry of peace and reconciliation, in which Love abounds. During the International Day of Peace, let us celebrate our peace heritage and pray for governments to prioritize robust investments in sustainable nonviolent peace initiatives and policies which aim to transform our chaotic world.

Call to worship

VT 13 Isaiah 2:3-4

Come, let us go up
to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
**that we may be taught God's ways,
and walk in God's paths.**

For out of Zion goes forth instruction,
And the word of the LORD
from Jerusalem.

God will judge between the nations,
and will arbitrate for many peoples;
they will beat their swords
into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation will not lift up sword

against nation,
neither will they learn war any more.

Scripture readings

Isaiah 26:1-4

1 Peter 5:6-9



Colette Kuvingila Kuyima, president of the Women Situation Room (WSR), stands with other WSR members as they discuss how they have used training on conflict resolution to resolve disputes in their community. MCC/Fairpicture photo/Justin Makangara

Intercessory prayer

By Charles Kwuelum

Introduction: We are called to be praying people, and to offer thanksgiving and intercession to God. Let us join in prayer.

Leader: That we may embrace God's peace in our world and the dignity of all. LORD hear our humble prayer.

All: By the power of your Spirit.

Leader: For governments and their officials, that they may formulate policies in compassion and empathy. LORD hear our humble prayer.

All: By the power of your Spirit.

Leader: That we may be filled with courage to embrace the other. LORD hear our humble prayer.

All: By the power of your Spirit.

Leader: For increased commitment toward peace and reconciliation. LORD hear our humble prayer.

All: By the power of your Spirit.

Sending

VT 818 Colossians 3:15-17

Let your hearts be ruled
by the peace of Christ,
to which indeed you were called
in one body.
And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ
dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing
one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns
and spiritual songs
with thankfulness
in your hearts to God.

Whatever you do,
in word or deed,
do everything in the name of Jesus,
giving thanks to God our Creator
through Christ.

The Bible verses quoted are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* (NRSV).

For further reading

United Nations: International Day of Peace
un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace

World Bank Group: Fragility, Conflict & Violence
worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview

UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency: Global Appeal 2024:
Internal displacement
reporting.unhcr.org/global-appeal-2024/focus-areas/internal-displacement



Nsimire Mugoli, a member of the Women Situation Room (WSR), responds to a question during an interview with the WSR group of ECC MERU NK (Church of Christ in Congo – Ministry of Refugees and Emergencies in North Kivu) at Minova, South Kivu, DR Congo. MCC photo/Jacob Sankara

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