

Peace Sunday 2025

Advancing peace through the Sustainable Development Goals



Worship resources

On Sunday, September 21, we celebrate the International Day of Peace. The theme for this year's celebration, "Actions for peace: Our ambition for the #Global Goals," reminds us of [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), a commitment undertaken in 2015 by various governments toward attaining global wellbeing with [the 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) as a benchmark. Progress toward achieving these goals by 2030 has been hampered by various factors, backtracking on global progress to attain a world free from violence and inequality.

One factor inhibiting progress is the unprecedented shift in spending priorities by governments of wealthy countries. Deep cuts to development, peacebuilding and humanitarian aid funding only make vulnerable communities more vulnerable. Our world today faces unprecedented humanitarian challenges, including violent conflicts, forced displacements, and looming famines. According to Global Humanitarian Overview, [over 310 million people](#) will require urgent life-saving humanitarian assistance in 2025.

MCC U.S. National Peace
& Justice Ministries



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

npjm.mcc.org

Above: Restorative Justice Peace Camp participants in a morning circle reflection in Chicago. The circle process is one of the many tools used to engage conflict in a more inclusive and constructive way. MCC photo/Rosalind Young

Worship resources

Mennonite Central Committee supports communities and partners around the world as they work to nurture a culture of peace and address the root causes of violence. Sometimes this means transforming prejudice, division and suspicion into relationships built on trust and mutual coexistence. Other times, it means working to dismantle systems of oppression, corruption and inequality.

In the United States, MCC hosts Peace Camps for young adults, providing experiential learning rooted in theological reflection, peacebuilding practices, and real-world application. Peace Camps encourage participants to explore current issues with curiosity, and to exercise courageous vulnerability in their hospitality toward others. From circle processes to deep listening to songwriting, Peace Camps offer a variety of tools for young people to continue engaging in their communities to build peace.

Internationally, MCC supports peace education in schools, enhancing skills in nonviolent communication and conflict resolution among young people. In Nigeria, for example, there are approximately 8,000 active peace club members in 223 schools in Plateau and Adamawa states. The skills learned have led to an 87% reduction in bullying, corporal punishment and violent incidents, and to a greater sense of community. Also, students have accompanied family and community members in navigating conflicts and encouraging mutual coexistence.

Call to worship

VT 384 Romans 12:9–21 (excerpts)

Be sincere in your love for others.

Hate all that is evil,

and hold tight to all that is good.

Love each other,

And honor others more than yourself.

Bless everyone who mistreats you.

Bless them and do not curse them.

When others are happy,

be happy with them;

when they are sad, be sad.

Make friends with ordinary people.

Do not mistreat someone

who has mistreated you.

But try to earn the respect of others,

and do your best to live at peace with everyone.

Do not let evil defeat you,

but defeat evil with good.

Suggested songs

VT 594 Over My Head

VT 595 When the Storms
of Life are Raging

VT 628 What a Friend
We Have in Jesus

VT 714 Let There Be Light

VT 787 O Day of Peace

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

Scripture Reading

John 14:10–14, 25–27

Intercessory prayer

by Charles Kwuelum (response adapted from 2 Timothy 1:7)

Introduction: The God of Grace constantly renews us with a lifegiving Spirit, reflecting God's grace of peace, reconciliation and love for one another. Though we often fall short, God's Holy Spirit guides us as we pray.

Leader: That we may offer grace in our relationship with ourselves and with others, acting as agents of nonviolence.

All: God gives us a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline and not of cowardice.

Leader: That the Holy Spirit, the essence and the true power of God's presence will continually renew us as God's creatures and ambassadors of God's peace.

All: God gives us a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline and not of cowardice.

Leader: That the Holy Spirit transforms our hearts and minds to embrace a peace that reflects social justice, the alleviation of suffering, and the attainment of wellbeing.

All: God gives us a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline and not of cowardice.

Leader: That we may respect and embrace differences, that we may hunger and thirst to respond to the needs of others, and that we may move away from war and violence and toward caring for God's creation.

All: God gives us a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline and not of cowardice.

All: Amen.



Students of St. Murumba College in Jos during a Peace Club exercise. MCC/JDPC Jos photo/ Sahil Dass

Concluding prayer

Excerpted from “**Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace**” (by Pope Francis)

Forgive us our trespasses, Lord,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
In this cycle of forgiveness, grant us your peace,
the peace that you alone can give
to those who let themselves be disarmed in heart,
to those who choose in hope to forgive the debts of
their brothers and sisters,
to those who are unafraid to confess their debt to you,
and to those who do not close their ears to the cry
of the poor.
Amen.

Bernard Eriau, a service worker
seconded to Justice Development
and Peace, Caritas, facilitating a
Peace Club activity at Government
Secondary School in Ropp, Barkin
Ladi. MCC/JDPC Jos photo/Sahil
Dass



For further reading

United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals
sdgs.un.org

United Nations: International Day of Peace
sdgresources.relx.com/events/international-day-peace-2025

Global Humanitarian Overview 2025 report
humanitarianaction.info

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