



Prayers for Peace

The Rev. Fr. Damian MacPherson, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

(cel.)Our help is in the name of the Lord,
(all)Who made heaven and earth.

(cel.)Let us pray.
(silence)

(cel.)God of glory, majesty and might,
To whom power, glory, sovereignty and dominion belong,
We employ you to look with kindness upon your people.
Today we renew our appeal
That you abolish from the hearts of your people,
Acts of violence, hatred and revenge.
Instruct our minds and teach our hearts anew,
To build on earth a city of justice, love and peace.

As we go forth from this holy dwelling place
Make us instruments of your purpose Lord.
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light and
where there is sadness joy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The Rev. Archpriest Fr. Zareh Zargarian, Armenian Holy Apostolic Church Canadian Diocese

God our Creator, who made the earth a peaceful garden,
help us restore that peace wherever it has been broken
by violence and injustice.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Guard the fullness of your Church.
Sanctify those who greet in love the beauty of your house.
Glorify us with your divine power
and do not abandon those who set their hope in you.

Grant peace to all the countries in conflict, especially
to Afghanistan, to the government and the diplomats and
all armed forces and to all the people there.

O Lord, protect and guard our Canadian Armed Forces
who are risking their lives in Afghanistan to establish
peace and justice.

For every good gift and every perfect bounty comes down from above,
from you, who are the Father of light;
and to you befits glory, dominion and honour,
now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Rev. Ian McDonald, The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Eternal Spirit of the universe,
our help in ages past and our only hope for years to come:
in our gathering this day, we are mindful of those
whose lives are uprooted, frustrated, twisted, dehumanized and lost in the shuffle.

We ask you to show us a vision of a world at peace,
rather than a world engaged in constant struggle for power and prominence.

Project onto the screen of our minds
structures of governing at local, national and international levels,
where sensitivity to human needs and the well being of all
replaces the concept of war as a great game,
with people's lives to be lost like pawns for meaningless so called victories....

Father Pishoy Wasfy, The Coptic Orthodox Church of Canada

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen

O king of peace, grant us your peace, settle upon us your peace and forgive us our many
sins.

May your mercy and your peace be a shelter unto you people in Afghanistan.

Therefore, we ask and entreat your goodness O Lover of mankind, grant us to complete
this holy day and all the days of our life in all peace with your fear, all envy, all
temptation all the work of Satan, the intrigue of wicked people, the rising up of enemies,
visible and invisible, take away from us and from all you people in Afghanistan.

But as for those things which are good and profitable, do provide for us, for you are the
one who has given us the authority to trample on serpents, scorpions and the powers of
the enemy.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us form the evil one. Through the grace,
compassion and love of mankind, of you only begotten son our Lord God and Savior
Jesus Christ. Through whom glory, honor, dominion, and worship are due unto You, with
Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver, who is of one essence with you, both now and
forever, and unto the age of all ages

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen

Rev. Brian Wilker-Frey, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Holy God, we pray for our sisters and brothers living in the midst of chaos and violence in Afghanistan. Look upon them with mercy and compassion. Where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant dreams that flourish and soar. Bless the land of Afghanistan with honesty in commerce, truth and equality in education, honour and accountability in government, and rescue it from every evil course of action from within and without. We pray in your most holy and blessed name. Amen

The Very Rev. Father Estephanos, Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for your mercy and everlasting love. We thank you that through our Lord Jesus Christ we are able to come boldly to your presence and have comfort and peace. We appeal to You to awaken the longing for a peace in all those who are filled with hatred for others because of race or religion, and are intent on destroying through war.

We pray, our Lord God, for all those who are experiencing war, especially for all victims and those in the struggle in Afghanistan. Show the people in Afghanistan your love through your servants there.

Save and deliver them, O Guardian of all, from all difficulty and chastisement, from all persecution and plague, from all calamity and captivity, from all devastation and famine, from all war and plunder and from all blows and bloodshed of peoples alien to Your worship.

Be, O Lord, a fortress to every city, country and nation that takes refuge in You.

Do not be silent, O Lord, about the lamenting of the miserable, the wailing of the poor, the weakening of the oppressed and the torment of the weary.

Guide the rulers by your powerful and almighty right hand.

Grant peace, O Lord, to the nations, drive away from them local and foreign wars that they may lead a tranquil life and protect them with the sign of Your victorious Cross.

Extinguish every dispute. Banish all disagreement. You are our peace and to You we ascribe glory. In the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray, now and forever more.

Amen.

Judy Gilbert, Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

"In the manner of Friends, we will have a minute of silence together."

The Rev. Jamie Cairns, Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec

Our God and Father, we come today mindful of Your desire for peace, mindful of our failures and yet confident in the hope You give that all things are possible through faith. In faith we pray for the people of Afghanistan, that as they desire to beat their swords into ploughshares, they will stand against their oppressors, not in power but in non-violence, not in hate but in love, not to destroy but to bring peace. In faith we pray for those in the world who believe that might makes right and that peace only comes through conquest. Make them mindful of Jesus, Who came in weakness to show the true power of God, that peace only comes through surrender. Lord, we surrender our hearts and our prayers to You. Grant Peace in our time. In Jesus' Name Amen.

Archpriest Oleg Kirillow, Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America

Lord Jesus Christ our God! Accept from us, Thy unworthy servants, this heartfelt prayer and remit our every transgression, subdue all our enemies, those who hate us, and who offend us, but do not punish them for their deeds, but in thy great loving-kindness change them, turn them away from evil and make them to be righteous.

Grant peace to the suffering people of Afghanistan, who are wounded and harmed, who day and night cry unto Thee. Hear their afflicted cry, most merciful God.

Grant peace, calm and love, and quickly bring reconciliation among the people in Afghanistan. Grant also protection and peace to our Canadian soldiers, and their loved ones, that their mission in this land may be completed for the betterment of the Afghan people, and to be found righteous in Thy eyes. Grant that all may be of one accord with one voice and everlasting love praise Thine blessed name, the long patient and all loving God unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Rev. Oriel Licorish, British Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada

Almighty God who created the world from nothing and who sustains it by Your powerful word, support and protect us that we may serve You as intercessors in Your world, and to that end, hear our prayer for the country of Afghanistan. We pray for peace, that peace that passes all human understanding. We pray for the healing of the wounded, we pray for the widows and orphans. We pray for the dying, for the discouraged, and for the broken-hearted.

O God, who has revealed to this generation wonders and mysteries of the universe, forgive us that we have often turned our larger knowledge to foolish and cruel uses and filled the world with terror and anguish. Increase in us all the power to dwell in peace together, settling our disputes without resort to violence so that we may be able to put away the instruments of war, and use Your gifts according to Your will to save life and not to destroy it.

Finally we commend to Your Fatherly goodness all other conditions of the people of Afghanistan, in mind, body or estate, that it may please You, heavenly Father, to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, endowing them with patience. This we ask in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Father Peter Mentis, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada)

Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have, mercy.*

Again, we pray to You, Lord, be mindful of Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, which is from one end of the inhabited earth to the other. Grant peace to her which You have obtained with the precious blood of Your Christ.

Lord, remember those in authority over us, whom You have judged them worthy to rule on earth. Grant them deep and enduring peace; speak good to their hearts for the sake of Your Church and all Your people, that in their tranquility we ourselves may live serene and quiet lives in all piety and dignity.

Give the people of Afghanistan health, blessings and victory, and give them the blessing of Your Most-Holy Spirit. Remember all of our fathers and brethren, who have passed away, those who have died fighting in Afghanistan and everywhere.

Sustain the good ones and make the wicked ones good through Your goodness.

Nurture the infants; instruct the youth; strengthen the aged; give courage to the faint hearted; reunite those separated; bring back those in error.

Free those who are held captive; sail with those who sail; travel with those who travel; defend the widows; protect the orphans; liberate the captives; heal the sick. Remember, Lord, those who are in mines, in exile, in harsh labor, and those in every kind of affliction, necessity, or distress; those who entreat your loving kindness; those who love us and those who hate us; those who have asked us to pray for them, unworthy though we may be. Remember, Lord our God, all Your people, and pour out Your rich mercy upon them, granting them their petitions for salvation.

For You, Lord, are the helper of the helpless, the hope of the hopeless, the savior of the afflicted, the haven of the voyager, and the physician of the sick. Be all things to all, You who know each person, his requests, his household, and his need. Deliver the country of Afghanistan, O Lord, and every country, from famine, plague, and war.

Remember us all, Lord, in Your Kingdom, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Rev. John Kapteyn, Executive Secretary, Regional Synod of Canada – Reformed Church in America

God of grace and God of love, God of mercy and of justice, God of holiness and of peace, we are gathered together this day to implore you to bring forgiveness and reconciliation to a warring humanity.

When your Son, Jesus, was born the angles praised you, saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."

In his Sermon on the Mount, this same Jesus reminded his disciples, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God."

Grant us your favour as we pray for peace and for all those who actively work for peace and reconciliation. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Catherine Hubbard, Regional Minister, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada

Holy One, shine in the darkness of violence that we may see that this world, for all its distortion by war and violence, is still in your world. Give us the virtue of courage to speak rightly against acts of sanctioned murder in the midst of your world. Give us the virtue of hate that we might rightly hate that which is hateful, namely the acts of violence perpetrated in your name. Give us the virtue of prudence that we may know what to fear and hate.

God of Light, at our feet lie dead Canadians, Afghans, Iraqis, dead mothers, fathers and children. We ask your comfort and mercy on these war-dead sisters and brothers. We ask you bestow the same mercy for ourselves, for our inability to be your peace, to be the end of war. Save us from the powers that imprison our imagination so that we turn to war as our only alternative. We know we cannot will our way to peace, for when we try we often fight wars for peace. Compel us with your love that we might be your peace, thus bringing life to this deadly world. Amen.

The Rev. Bruce Adema, Canadian Ministries Director, Christian Reformed Church in North America – Canada

Father,

We know that it was not for war that we were created. Conflict, fear and pain is not your desire for us or the people of this world. It was for joy, harmony and peace that you called the universe into being, and it was for reconciliation that you sent your Son to be our Saviour and Lord. Through the indwelling blessing of your Holy Spirit we sense and even begin to see your intention and our future of Shalom.

But for many, the peace which flows from your divine vision seems impossible to experience or even to imagine. Father, we lift up before your throne of grace the nation and the people of Afghanistan. We remember those caught in the crosshairs of this conflict – the people of that land, the troops sent by the United Nations from our country and others. We hear the reports of violence, desperation, death. We long to celebrate the outbreak of Shalom, the return of laughter and security.

Lord, what is too hard for you? What is beyond your power and sovereignty? Your Word tells us that with you nothing is impossible. So, we beseech you, shower your grace and blessing on Afghanistan. Bring stability to that tortured land. Let hope return and the celebration of peace break forth.

We ask this humbly and fervently, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace.
Amen.

The Right Rev. David Guiliano, Moderator, The United Church of Canada

Holy One,

we know that we are not alone,
we live in your world.

We know that you call each of us
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil.

We know that each of us carries within our self your vision
of all creation healed and restored
because we are partners with You in caring for your creation.

** a moment of silence**

We pray now for the land and people of Afghanistan and for us all.

** a moment of silence**

Through your Wisdom and Grace,
 empower us to work together with the Afghani peoples
 until Afghanistan is a nation
 where hearts are comforted and gifts, shared for the good of all;
 where resistance is strengthened against forces that exploit
 and marginalise and fierce love overcomes violence.

** a moment of silence**

We know not only your promise but the price you paid
 for the world's brokenness.

Help us own our part in Afghanistan's brokenness by
 embracing the present,
 embodying hope
 loving our enemies,
 caring for the earth,
 choosing life.

We rightfully place our hope in you to guide Afghanistan
 through us and the people there
 into wholeness, union and integration.

** a moment of silence**

We know in life, in death and in life beyond death,
 You are with us
 we are not alone.
 New Life is possible for Afghanistan.
 Thank-you, O Holy One. Amen.

Commissioner Christine MacMillan, Territorial Commander, The Salvation Army

We approach you God, with our united prayer on behalf of the people of Afghanistan whose lives have been disrupted and destroyed by decades of conflict and disaster.

We recognize the overwhelming tyranny that has affected families, especially women and children. Protect the innocent. Touch the hearts of those in power and cause them to recognize the wisdom and righteousness in the way of compassion and justice in this tragic land.

We pray for peace and reconstruction in putting the pieces of the country back together, a land suffering from a shattered infrastructure, of a countryside of uncleared mine fields and towns and cities in ruin.

We pray for the Afghans who are involved and totally dependent on the opium harvest, sadly the world's largest. O God, provide the government leaders with a vision of what can be in an economy free from this evil.

Lord, we would pray for the Afghan Christians though small in number who, because of fear and suspicion find it difficult to meet. Protect and encourage them.

The Right Rev. Colin Johnson, Anglican Church of Canada**For Peace**

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Armed Forces

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For our Enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them, and us, from prejudice to truth; deliver them, and us, from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.