



Leader: As we incline our hearts and minds toward peace and justice in our world, in our nation and in our community, let us hear the words of the psalmist:

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. (a moment of silence)

Leader: *Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Give your people peace. Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

People: *Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Give your people peace. Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Leader: Let us hear the call of scripture to the mission of all the baptized:

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself. (a moment of silence)

People: *Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Give your people peace. Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Leader: Holy and life-giving God: Send your reconciling Spirit to visit us. Live and move and have being in every human heart. Do your work among your people—crumbling the barriers that divide us, stemming the violence that pervades our country and our world, bringing an end to the hatreds and the hostilities that break your loving purpose. Heal our brokenness, O God, that we may live in harmony as one people.

People: Send your reconciling spirit of peace and justice upon us and the world you have entrusted into our care.

Leader: Creating God: You made us in your own image; you made us for peace. And yet too often we choose to live in ways that destroy the very humanity you intend for us. Call forth in us that which is of you. Grant us the courage and perseverance to embody your peaceful ways in ourselves and in our relationships with one another.

People: Send your abiding spirit of peace and justice upon us and the world you have entrusted into our care.



Leader: Mothering God: You gather the suffering in your loving embrace. Come and dwell with those who have lost loved ones to the violence of our world. Comfort them in every affliction. With tenderness, console them in the hours of their need. In your compassion, and by your mercy, heal their torn hearts and lives—and restore them to fullness of life.

People: Send your comforting spirit of peace and justice upon us and the world you have entrusted into our care.

Leader: *Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Give your people peace. Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

People: *Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Give your people peace. Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Leader: Discerning God: You know our hearts, and from you no secrets are hidden. You know the impulse to anger that lies within us and the urge to strike out. Call us to recognize all within us that would break your people. Lead us away from anger towards a deeper love. Strengthen our resolve to live as your compassion, your peace, and your reconciling love in all that we say and in all that we do.

People: Send your forgiving spirit of peace and justice upon us and the world you have entrusted into our care.

Leader: God of our redemption: our cities and our streets have become places of war and violence. Our schools and our homes have moved from places of safety and sustenance to places of fear and anxiety. Let us not be silent. Create in us such a desire for civility, such a longing for peace, such a love for our neighbor that we will not be stopped in our efforts to restore our neighborhoods and our towns. Raise up among your faithful people a common desire to redeem all that you have entrusted to us. Make us bold for peace.

People: Send your redeeming spirit of peace and justice upon us and the world you have entrusted into our care.

Leader: Loving God: You love every person that you have made and call us to do the same. Give us the wisdom and grace to be close to all who suffer: in body, mind, spirit or relationship. Give us the courage to be present to those who live in isolation; to comfort those whom no one comforts; to see those whose pain we would rather not see. Give us ministering hearts and healing hands. Turn our lives and the lives of our churches and communities to seek those who need to see your love in our eyes.

People: Send your loving spirit of peace and justice upon us and the world you have entrusted into our care.

Leader: Prince of Peace: You challenge us when we seek a shallow justice—when we cry “Peace, peace”—when there is no peace. Give courage to those who seek your purposes; who challenge and address the truth of our violent ways. In the struggle to reduce gun violence, stand with those who keep covenant with you to protect the lives of every person. Uphold them in their work by your grace, that we may be known as people of peace, as lovers of justice.

Leader and People (unison) *Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Give your people peace. Come, oh Lord, and set us free; Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Prayer litany adapted from The Washington National Cathedral’s Gun Sabbath Prayers, March 15, 2013.
(<http://www.cathedral.org/learn/GunSabbath2013-prayers.shtml>)





Invitation to join EPF as a Peace Partner in Prayers for Peace Sabbath!

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry has endorsed the “Prayers for Peace Sabbath” organized by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (“EPF”). You are invited to join this commemoration of our 81st year of social justice action and ministry. The kickoff of “Prayers for Peace Sabbath” is November 15, 2020 the Sunday immediately following November 11, formerly Armistice Day, now Veteran’s Day, which is the anniversary of EPF’s founding on November 11, 1939.

Enclosed are prayers, collects and a blessing which EPF encourages you to use through the Season of Epiphany as part of your worship liturgies. We are grateful for the Presiding Bishop’s enthusiastic support and hope you will be similarly moved to pray for peace during these challenging times.

Your parish is also invited to join EPF as a peace partner in supporting the social justice and nonviolence work of EPF in the Church and in the world. Episcopal Peace Fellowship’s Peace Partner Network consists of individuals and institutions, such as congregations, dioceses, chapters and seminaries, who are seeking to grow their justice and peace ministries with the support of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

Historically, dues to become a congregational member of EPF have been \$250 per year. This year, however, in commemoration of 81 years of social justice advocacy, we request that you commit a Sunday or series of Sundays through Epiphany to asking parishioners to make individual contributions to EPF. Designating EPF as the recipient of loose plate monies collected during services, if you are back to in-person worship, would be most appreciated. It is suggested that you use this link (<https://www.classy.org/give/198746#!/donation/checkout>) if you are still meeting virtually. The option remains for your congregation to contribute \$250 to affiliate with EPF as a peace partner parish if that is preferable.

EPF will make available to you, in addition to the enclosed prayers, a videotaped sermon from Rev. Bob Davidson, EPF National Chair, which will be available for broadcast during your worship services on November 15 or otherwise. His message makes a natural connection with a forum on social justice you may wish to hold. This combination is an ideal opportunity to evangelize about our Baptismal promise as Episcopalians to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

You will receive a Peace Partner Congregation certificate (suitable for framing) and the Bishop Paul Jones Icon poster, as well as our logo that you can use on your website to identify as a parish committed to working for Gospel justice. These symbols of your affiliation as a Peace Partner of EPF will become familiar to members of your congregation and to those that visit your parish.

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The following member benefits will be afforded you as a Peace Partner Congregation:

- A listing in **EPF's Online Peace Partner Congregation Directory** on our new website
- Connection to a worldwide network of people and parishes dedicated to social justice ministry -- our Action Group networks -- which include Anti-Racism, Gun Violence Prevention, Abolition of the Death Penalty, Environmental Justice, Palestine-Israel Network, Gender Violence Prevention, Advocacy in Support of Refugees and Immigrants, and our longstanding Anti-War Efforts (including support for Conscientious Objectors, Abolition of Nuclear Arms, and Abolition of Drone Warfare).
- Access to the EPF Constant Contact account to send informative emails to large groups
- Consultation time with EPF's leadership on your congregation's peace and justice work
- A beautiful poster of the Bishop Paul Jones icon, a piece created by the Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls for the Episcopal Peace Fellowship
- A certificate identifying your congregation as a Peace Partner Congregation
- Use of our logo on your parish website
- Weekly *Peace Out* newsletter, highlighting the work of EPF across the globe
- Access to our online preaching series, which is tied to the lectionary and will highlight our social justice ministries
- A visit from our Executive Director when she is in your neighborhood. She is available for leading forums, preaching, participating in demonstrations and witness, recruiting for new ministries, and educating people about our Gospel call to social justice advocacy
- Access to our curricula for certain of our social justice ministries, as you have a need for adult Christian education classes

We will be featuring our Peace Partners periodically in our weekly e-mail, *Peace Out*, and on our EPF Facebook page. Please send your news to us at epfactnow@gmail.com so we can help promote your congregation's justice work.

From the National Executive Council of EPF, and our entire membership, we hope you will partner with us in our work for justice and peace!

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