

Reader seven: proclaims the peacemaker by announcing – We remember, you, _____, as a peacemaker.

All: We give honour to your name.

Reader seven: We have heard God’s call to peace and listen to the ways of peacemakers calling for justice. Let us now pause to experience the call within and determine one step that is needed to respond fully to his call.

Allow approximately 1 – 2 two minutes reflection time.

Concluding Prayer:

Prayers of the faithful

Reader eight: Let us present our prayers to our God who calls us, and all people, to be peacemakers. We pray for all those afflicted by violence of hatred and war. May they listen to the peacemakers within their midst.

All: God of peace, listen to our prayer.

Reader nine: We remember children who experience abuse and disruption in their homes and communities. May they be touched by people of peace.

All: God of peace, listen to our prayer.

Reader ten: We pray for all those imprisoned for their actions for justice and peace. May they know the freedom promised by God to all who follow the ways of peace.

All: God of peace, listen to our prayer.

Reader eleven: We ask for the gifts of the Spirit that we need to remain firm in our resolve as we go forth to live as peacemakers.

All: God of peace, listen to our prayer.

Pause for spontaneous prayer petitions.

Reader Eleven: Let us go forth with the joy of the Spirit who is the source of peace that lives within us.

ALL: Amen.



Opening our hearts... Blessed are the Peacemakers



Hold Firm... Trust in the Lord

*“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.”*

Matthew 5: 9



Introduction

Reader One: Today, we gather to continue reflecting on the virtue of gratitude and the following key message that presenter David Wells left with us, during our Division Faith Day: If we lose the why(why is God) underneath the what (What is God), we the people of God are missing the point...Hold Firm...Trust in the Lord. This month of November, we remember and reflect upon those people we know as peacemakers, and to hear our *own call to peacemaking in our day.*

Preparation

In your prayer space place a lightened candle, a bible open to Matthew 5: 1-11. Place symbols of peace (dove, olive branch, peace candle); have pictures of peacemakers (i.e. laughing Jesus, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther king, Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, see <hillconnections.org>). Have a basket with small pieces of paper and pencils for the participants.



Opening Prayer

Reader Two: Lord, we hear your call to peace in our world in so many places torn by war and conflict; we experience many acts of violence in our communities, in our relationships, and within our own hearts. We desire your presence of healing and hope in our time together as we listen to stories of those who lived as peacemakers in our world. Send us your Spirit of Wisdom that we may hear our call to be peacemakers in our own time. In openness and trust, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 14: 25-27 ~ the Promise of the Holy Spirit

Reader three:

Pre-reading reflection: John14.27 is the passage the priest recites during the Mass just before he invites the community to share a sign of peace. This is no ordinary peace, however. It is the peace of Christ. It is a peace that is not of this world. It has allowed Christians to endure hardships, oppression, war, sickness, and death, with dignity and hope. The next time you are at Mass, think about the awesome power in the peace of Christ that you are extending to the people around you.

Reader four:

A reading from the words of the Gospel according to John – “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Reader five:

Post-reading reflection: A challenge of peace by the Canadian Conference of Bishops – Jesus Christ...is our peace, and in his death-resurrection he gives God’s peace to our world. In him God has indeed reconciled the world, made it one, and has manifested definitely that his will is this reconciliation, this unity between God and all peoples, and among the peoples themselves. The way to union has been opened, the covenant of peace established. The risen Lord’s gift of peace is inextricably bound to the call to follow Jesus and to continue the proclamation of God’s reign. To have peace in our world, we must first have peace within ourselves.... World peace will always elude us until peace becomes a reality for each of us personally.

SYMBOLIC ACTION and PRAYER OFFERING

Reader Six: We hear our call to peace. Let us now recall those who have given us an example of living peacemakers. A peacemaker, the dictionary defines as a person who brings about peace. I ask you now to recall persons from history and your own experience who come to mind when you speak the word “peacemaker”.

Allow time for each person to write a name on a piece of paper and collect the names in a basket. Ask five people to come forward, draw out a name and proclaim the name to the group (one by one). After the name is announced, ask for the qualities of this person that identifies her/him as a peacemaker.

