

2nd Week of Advent: Liturgy of Peace

Litany of the Advent Candle

One: Spirit of Light, Holy Prism of Color, we call upon your rays of peace to shine down on us. We remember how peace knew the flood, the fear, and loss that came before the rainbow, before the olive branch was carried over troubled waters,

All: before the soft feathers of a dove meant that harm would cease, for now.

One: Thus, peace understands why we long for it so—why we, dare we say, need it to survive.

All: So, let us bless this wreath with such sought-after branches,

One: branches that hold fast to life, that mean a today and tomorrow,

All: branches that mean there is more than enough, a bounty in God's creation for all.

One: O Prism of Peace, our world is ever in need of your rainbow light. Two by two, day by day, night by night, guide us to cultivate a more just way in our daily lives. Grant that we may light this candle with the color of peace,

All: with the color of us, a full spectrum that leaves no one out. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

One: Peace calls us to participate, to co-create, to collaborate,

All: and yet, at times, we choose to go sit out, to hoard, to trust in no one but ourselves.

One: Peace calls us to not only break patterns of oppression and domination, but to find another way,

All: to imagine a world where there is no need for enemies, where the lion lays down with the lamb.

One: Peace calls us to take care of each other, to not fight injustice with more harm. Peacemaker, highlight for us the shadows we don't want to see or name, the ways we stood in the way of peace.

All: And grant us the grace and skill of repair, to transform ourselves and our world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

O Olive Branch Bringer, Weaver of Advent Wreaths, for generations you have told us that if we follow your ways, there shall be peace and safety. You have told us that if we live in the ways of jubilee, there shall be freedom and justice. Let us take a moment to pause, to pray for how and where and for whom such jubilee is long overdue (pause). Help us to gain the courage and connections to make such peace possible, for the Spirit of our God to be upon us to bring Good News to the world. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Our God invites us into covenant and to be in covenant with one another. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts," says Paul's letter to the Colossians, "since as members of one body you were called to peace." May we make this offering united as one, that it might be used for the peace and justice of all. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Covenantal Creator, we dedicate these offerings to restore right-relationships in the world, in our community, and in our own hearts. We carry the light of hope alongside us in this prayer for peace, desiring this act to move us closer to the City of God. Sanctify our hope that peace is possible and that we may be its practitioners each day. Amen.



"...THE GLORY OF GOD SHONE AROUND THEM..."

LUKE 2:9