

Pray For Peace & Work for Peace Together

September 21 is the International Day of Peace. This day was established by the United Nations in 1981. In 2001 the UN unanimously voted to designate the day as a time for 'non-violence and cease-fire'. The call has been for all people engaged in fighting and war in the world to stop their fighting – at least for the day to give a time for helping suffering people and getting humanitarian aid to people caught in the middle of war zones. The hope is also that a taste of peace might encourage a stronger resolve to end the conflict for good. This year's theme, "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world," is a call to "think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better [from the COVID pandemic], how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier."



Christians around the world have also united to lift up September 21 as a day of prayer for peace. We all have within us the capacity to sow the seeds of peace or the seeds of violence and destruction. In these days, when the world is hurting from disease, weather related disaster, and violence, we desperately need more seeds of peace to be planted, tended, and encouraged to grow!

- **Pray for those dealing with COVID.** (Now, in the U.S. 1 out of every 500 people has died of COVID) Not only is the number of people actually infected, becoming ill, & dying increasing, so too is the anger, frustration, & fear surrounding the pandemic. Too many people are allowing those feelings to overwhelm them & cloud their judgment. A pandemic is a clear & urgent situation in which recognizing our inter dependance with all people in the world community is also urgent. Help us sow the seeds of cooperation, empathy, & Christ like concern for each other for the good of all.
- **Pray for those dealing with Storms, flooding, & fires** which are plaguing many places in our world – the U.S, India, Spain, Haiti, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, China, & countries in Africa among them. Pray for the people struggling with these crises. Help sow the seeds of empathy, resolve, encouragement, & creativity as we help people recover & address the human causes that have contributed to these disasters.
- **Pray for the people of Afghanistan – especially the women & girls** as they face life under extreme Islamic fundamentalism & the continuing terrors of violence.
- **Pray for refugees** fleeing violence, political upheaval, hunger, economic crisis, or environmental catastrophe. Help us sow the seeds of peace, reason, community, & problem solving as we tackle the issues that put people in such desperate situations in the first place.

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