

Pray For Peace!

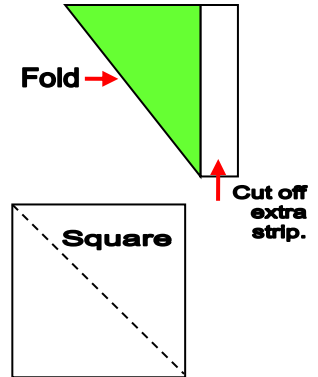
In 1981 the UN General Assembly declared September 21 as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. In 2004 the World Council of Churches proposed that a day of prayer for peace should be part of the observance. In many places, people continue to mark the day with prayer vigils, community gatherings, peace education events, and other activities to promote peace. Last year, there were at least 846 celebrations in 91 countries. This year, join in by making a peace prayer dove. See the instructions on the back of this sheet. Add it to your worship center, use it as a bookmark in your Bible, or put it where you will see it often. When you see the dove, remember to repeat your prayer for peace and seek ways to be a peace maker in your community. You may also make more than one prayer dove. Share them with others so they can pray too.



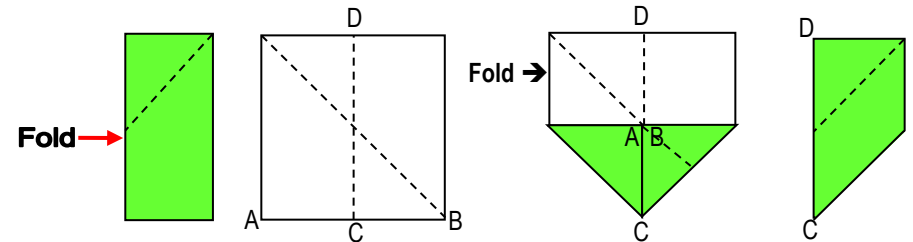
- **Libya** – where, after nine months of heavy rain & the failure of 2 dams, major flooding has left more than 4,000 dead & 5,000 people missing. As more information comes in, these numbers have been revised.
- **Azerbaijan** where the government is fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh against the largely Armenian population there. There is fear that Azerbaijan is engaging in ethnic cleansing – trying to kill off the Armenians in their territory.
- **Morocco** – still recovering from the earthquake there. Nearly 3,000 have died; more than 2,500 are critically injured. 300,000 people have been affected by the quake.
- **Sudan** – the civil war there is 4 years old. More than 5 million people have been displaced. The U.N. is investigating possible genocide there.
- **Congo**: people are living with violence, hunger, & the destruction of their land & way of life. Violence over mineral rights is a big part of the struggle there. Women & girls are subjected to sexual violence on a massive scale.
- **Continue to remember those dealing with COVID** – The current surge continues. The number of cases & hospitalizations has been climbing higher every week since mid-July.
- **Ukraine. The war continues.** Attacks & atrocities against civilians are ongoing.
- **Refugees & Migrants** – Remember people so desperate to escape dangerous situations that they fall prey to human traffickers who put profit before the lives & safety of desperate people. There are 108.4 million forcibly displaced people in the world. 40% of them are children. 35.3 million of them are refugees.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 31,176 people have died in gun violence (up 820 from last week) including 1,269 children (up 20 from last week). 27,218 people have been injured (up 645 from last week) including 3,453 children (up 74 from last week). 17,358 of the deaths are suicides (up 462 from last week). There have already been 506 mass shootings (up 8 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics).

Making Simple Origami Peace Doves To Hold Your Peace Prayers

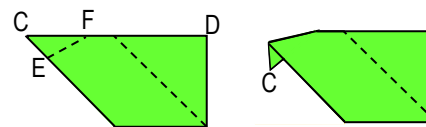
Start with a square piece of paper. If you do not have a square, you can make a square by folding the short side of a rectangle [like a piece of copy paper] to the long side and then cutting off the extra strip. Unfold the square. Write your prayer on one side of the square. You can use that side as the inside or the outside of the dove as you choose. If the prayer covers most of the side, and the words are on the inside (white in the diagrams) the words will show on the wings. If the words are on the outside, (green in the diagram) the words will be on the body and tail of the dove.



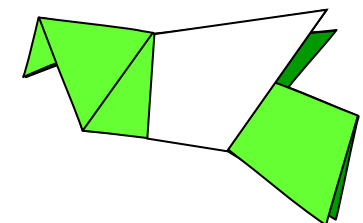
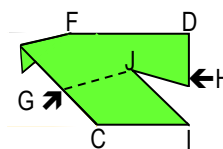
Next fold the square in half to make a rectangle and then unfold the square again. Fold points A and B to center line C-D. Then, fold the piece in half at line C-D.



Now turn the piece so that the fold at line C-D is at the top. Hold the model between F and D and reverse the fold from C to F by pushing down at point C so that the triangle C-F-E folds at line E-F down in between the two sides to form the head.



Cut through both sides along the lines I-J-H to separate the tail from the wings. Then fold the wing up along fold line G-J so that point C is at line F-D. Turn the model over and make the same G-J fold on the other side to form the other wing. You now have the finished dove!



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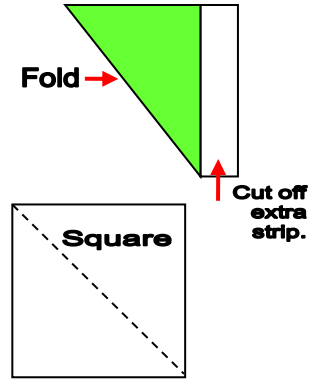
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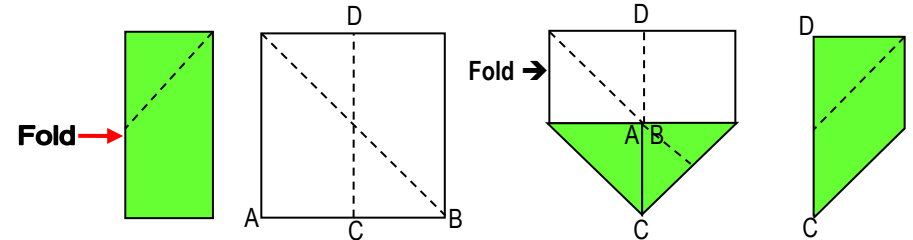
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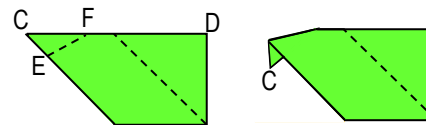
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