

We Cry To You!

Oh Prince of Peace, we cry to you,
Bring Peace to our world!
Stop the violence.
End the hate and let your love flow down on us!
That is our cry. . .
Then we say, "Let peace begin with me!"
But too often we say it with our eyes closed – we do not really know what that means.
First Lord, help us to open our eyes.
Then we will see that your love already flows strong and sure but we have not opened ourselves to receive it *and* share it.
You have already given us the things that make for peace,
but we are not always willing to do the work that making peace requires.
We are crippled by fear,
unwilling to risk,
unwilling to let go of hate,
and unwilling to love even the unlovable.
We forget to see God's face in all those who touch our lives – friend and foe alike.
We are unwilling to trust that your love is stronger than hate.
We are unwilling to admit that we could be wrong;
that maybe we need to listen more than we talk;
that maybe we do not know as much as we think;
that maybe – if we see 'us' through their eyes;
we might see why an enemy believes there is reason to hate us. . .
that maybe we need to make the first move toward peace – even if we think it makes us vulnerable
that maybe we need to ask forgiveness;
because maybe there are wrongs we have done that we need to make right. . .
Lord, remind us that you gave us the power to choose
and with it comes responsibility for our choices
and consequences with our actions.
Oh Prince of Peace, next time we cry to you,
Bring Peace to our world!
Stop the violence.
End the hate and let your love flow down on us!
Remind us to add: "And Lord, where should I start?"

This week pray for:

- **India** where religious persecution is a growing problem
- **People in U.S. custody.** Another child died in U.S. custody this week. This week's news showed pictures of children, in custody, sleeping on gravel under silver mylar 'blankets.' Statistics show more people are arriving now at our southern border, hopefully seeking life, than ever before. Most are coming to border agents and asking for help not trying to 'sneak in'. Even so, many news and government reports characterize them as having been 'apprehended' which implies sneaky or 'illegal' behavior. The current administration continues to treat these emigrants, even the youngest ones, as criminals in defiance of our own and international law. . . Business representatives testified this week that they are having trouble getting enough workers because of new restrictions on emigrants. . . We are called to welcome the stranger not to turn them away or abuse them (Matthew 25:35).



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