

Holiday Prayer

O Lord, the world we live in is in great need of your peace!

Help us to put aside the hustle and bustle of what the world has made of 'Christmas' and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child.

Help us center our lives on you and study your word, that we may learn what your peace means for our lives.

Quiet our minds and open our hearts to hear your still small voice, for you do speak to us when we take the time to listen!

Give us the courage to speak out when we see injustice. Your message is for all people not just for a privileged few.

Grant us grace to acknowledge our faults and seek your forgiveness and that of those we have hurt.

Remind us that despite what the world says, life is not all about us. We are called to follow you, and it is in following you that there is hope for peace.



This week, in your prayer time remember:

- **Shooting victims** there have been 4 incidents in which 4 or more people were injured or killed this week already (2 incidents in Texas, 1 in New Jersey, and 1 in Louisiana). 13 people died and 10 people were injured in these 4 incidents. There have been 395 such incidents so far this year. That averages to more than 1 a day. . .

- **Those for whom holidays bring pain not peace or joy.**

- **Refugees and emigrants in the U.S and elsewhere.** At least 3 children in US custody at the border have died of the flu in recent days (these are not the only deaths). They were being housed in unsafe conditions with no medical care. A group of doctors who have offered to give free flu vaccines to the emigrants have been refused permission to do so by border agents. A very bad flu season is expected this year. . .



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