



Take a  
Moment to  
Pray for  
Peace!

## A Reason For Hope

Once again, we prepare for the coming of God's presence among us through the birth of Jesus the Christ. In our time when so many are caught up in fear and anger, let this Christmas season remind us that through Jesus, God has already given us the things that make for peace and joy in our lives. What are they?

- The gift of salvation
- The gift of his presence through the Holy Spirit
- The gift of love received and shared
- The gift of a community of believers with whom to seek God's leading in our lives
- The gift of giving yourself in service to others
- The gift of forgiveness – both given and received
- The gift of the joy of giving – a full measure pressed down and running over – of the bounty that God has given us to give to others
- The gift of compassion for those who suffer

All these and much more come from God – all we must do is accept his gifts and make them part of our lives!

***This week, in your prayer time remember:***

- **Shooting victims**
- **Those for whom holidays bring pain not peace or joy.**
- **Refugees and emigrants in the U.S and elsewhere**, especially children who are mistreated or who's health is put at risk while they are jailed
- **Those effected by storms this week**
- **Our leaders as they make decisions that will affect people here and around the world** – This is an excerpt from a letter signed by the Church of the Brethren, 31 other groups, and some 70 individuals to the 2020 presidential candidates calling for a reduction in military spending and redirection of those funds to address needs such as poverty, hunger, education, healthcare, and the environment, among others: *"While roughly 40 million people in the United States are not sure they can afford enough food for their family, Congress and the president have agreed to spend more than \$70 billion of our nation's resources on another year of fighting overseas wars," the letter said, in part (this will increase spending on the military by at least \$20 billion over last year). "Salaries for the nation's teachers have fallen by 4.5% over the past decade, yet our latest budget devotes another \$9 billion for F-35 war planes. Veterans of our nation's wars are dying of suicide and drug overdose at alarming rates, yet Congress is poised to spend well over a trillion dollars to refurbish a nuclear weapons arsenal for a type of war that Ronald Reagan once said "cannot be won and must never be fought. This misallocation of our tax dollars is a gross misrepresentation of our values."* The full text of the letter is at: [www.afsc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Pentagon%20Spending%20Letter.pdf](http://www.afsc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Pentagon%20Spending%20Letter.pdf)



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