



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

## PRAYERS FOR PEACE 2022

### OPENING

Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
*that we may walk the paths of the Most High.*

### THE BOOK OF ISAIAH 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

### REFLECTION

*A brief reflection may be offered.*

### A LITANY IN FAVOR OF PEACE

*Reader* We pray for nations and their leaders; for adults and young people and generations still to come; for our enemies and our allies and for ourselves. Free us all from bondage to violence.

*People* **Hear our prayer, O God of peace.**

*Reader* Help us imagine your vision of peace. Give us courage to pursue it, and grace to accomplish it. May we strive for its fulfillment in our world and in our time. Free us all from bondage to violence.

*People* **Hear our prayer, O God of peace.**

*Reader* Help us to acknowledge and heal our wounds, to resolve buried grievances, to recognize that in the face of guilt, grace and forgiveness can abound. Make us passionate for reconciliation. Free us all from bondage to violence.

*People* **Hear our prayer, O God of peace.**

*Reader* Purge from us fearfulness and hardness of heart. Replace rivalry with collaboration that people everywhere may enjoy justice and prosperity. Free us all from bondage to violence.

*People* **Hear our prayer, O God of peace.**

*Reader* Open our eyes that we may see enemies as people like ourselves, as people that you love. May we recognize their brokenness and our own. Free us all from bondage to violence.

*People* **Hear our prayer, O God of peace.**

*Reader* Inspire us to build friendships across every boundary. Show us how to welcome the stranger and accept the stranger's welcome. Help us not to fear people made in your image. Free us all from bondage to violence.

*People* **Hear our prayer, O God of peace.**

*Reader* In the labor of conforming our lives and our society to your will, let us never surrender to despair. And so we implore from you a continuing change of heart for ourselves and for one another. Free us all from bondage to violence.

*People* **Hear our prayer, O God of peace.**

## A BLESSING FOR PEACE

May you speak your faith so others can understand, may you find hope when the news shouts despair, may you be able to love the people who curse you, may your passion and rashness be tempered with patience and humility. May God set your heart ablaze. May you find the peace of God, which passes human understanding. Amen.

## PEACE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.