

Prayer for Peace and Harmony

Desmond M. Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa

"O God, all holy one, you are our Mother and our Father and we are your children. Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may be able to discern your work in the universe. And be able to see Your features in every one of Your children. May we learn that there are many paths but all lead to You. Help us to know that you have created us for family, for togetherness, for peace, for gentleness, for compassion, for caring, for sharing."

"May we know that You want us to care for one another as those who know that they are sisters and brothers, members of the same family, Your family, the human family. Help us to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, so that we may be able to live in peace and harmony, wiping away the tears from the eyes of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. And may we know war no more, as we strive to be what You want us to be: Your children. Amen."

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Prayer for Blessing of Our Justice Work

O God of great compassion,
You called us to serve the cause of justice
And to be messengers of Your love
To those the world has forgotten.
As we go forth in the knowledge
That you are with us always,
Help us to use our energy, our love and power
To transform Your earth through prayer and action.
Bless each of us in the days ahead.
Bless our efforts to serve the poor and the disadvantaged.
Bless our hopes to work for the fullness of life, for peace and dignity for all
Bless our celebrations and fill us with Your joy.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Millennium Prayer

O God our creator and sustainer,
we pray to you:
We want to celebrate life.
We cry out against all that kills life:
hunger, poverty, unemployment,
sickness, debt, repression,
individualism, abuse of the earth,
injustice, and all other forms of slavery.
We want to announce fullness of life:
work, education, health, housing,
safe environment, bread for all.
We want communion, solidarity,
a world renewed.
We hope against hope.
With the God of history,
We want to make things new again.

Amen

Meaning of Life Prayer

Holy Spirit, most welcome guest of our hearts,
Reveal to us the profound meaning of life on this Earth
And prepare our hearts to celebrate it with faith,
In the hope that does not disappoint,
In the love which seeks nothing in return.

Spirit of consolation, unfailing source of joy and peace,
Inspire solidarity with the poor,
Grant the weak the strength they need,
Pour out trust and hope upon those experiencing trials,
Awaken in all hearts a commitment to a better future.

Adapted from "Jubilee Prayer", Pope John Paul II