

Peace in our world • Peace in our nation • Peace in our neighborhoods • Peace in our homes • Peace in our hearts

Peace Worship

Why Peace Worship?

“Therefore, if peacemaking is truly integral to a community of faith, its worship should reflect this concern. Peace will not only be mentioned... but even the way people worship will manifest peace. Worship will acknowledge that spiritual life and faith are not means to escape the world. Rather, worship will empower the community to make real that vision of peace which is at the heart of true religion.”

(John A. Donaghy, from *Peacemaking and the Community of Faith*)

This peace worship resource provides a complete 20 minute worship session that can be used alone, or in conjunction with a peace lesson or activity. To prepare for this worship session:

1. Gather enough stones/rocks/pebbles for one per person and place them in a central location. (center of the circle, on a table with candles, etc.)
2. Have someone prepared to lead the song on the guitar or piano.
3. To facilitate group participation, assign each of the 16 worship items to be read or lead by a different person. This can be done by writing the number/s in a corner, highlighting different items on each hand-out, or simply vocally before the service starts.
4. Proceed through the service with a moment of silence between each item. The words in bold are read by everyone together, other quotes are read by individuals.

For a quick peace lesson:

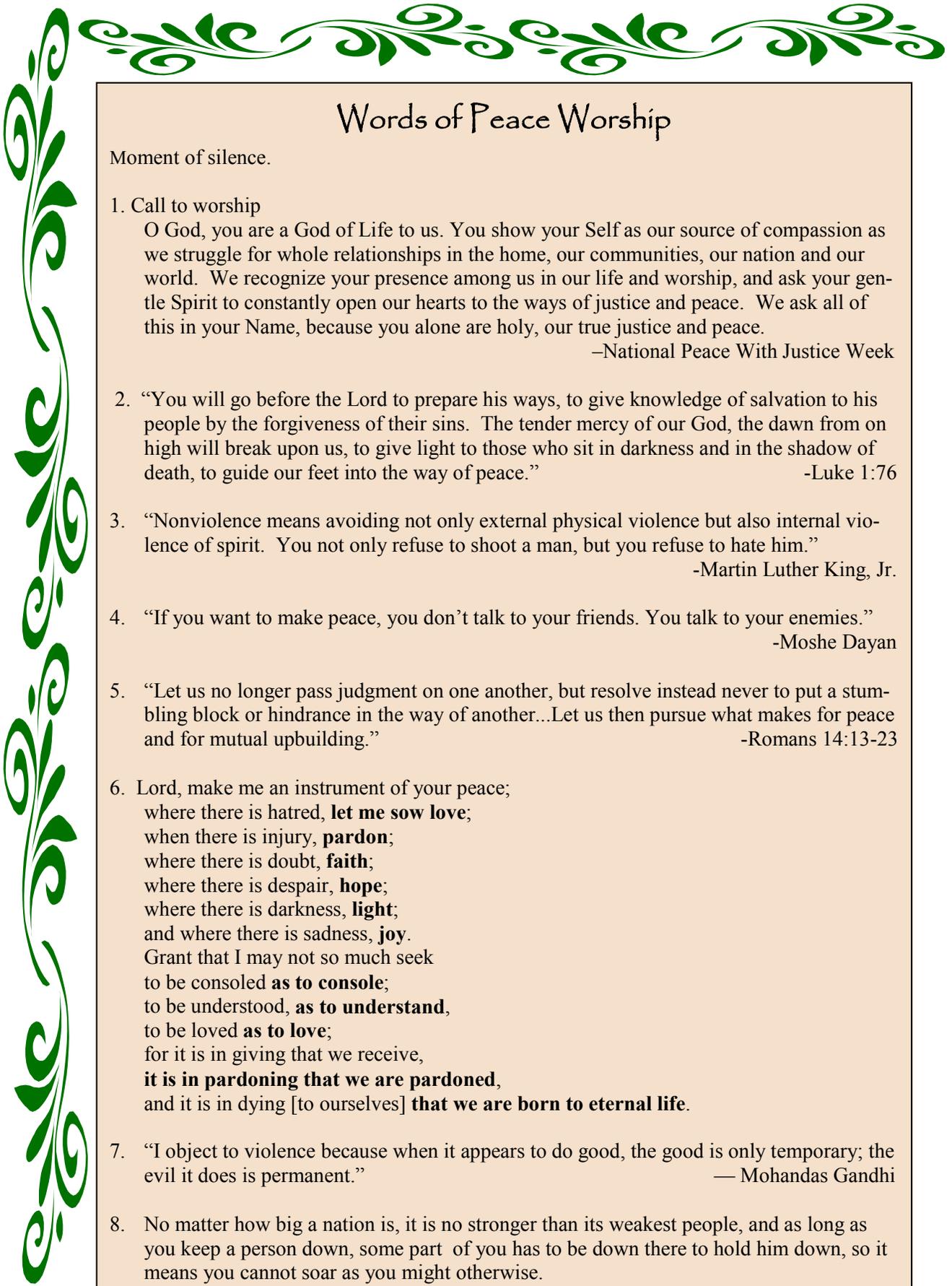
Break into groups of three, assign one biblical passage or quote from this resource to each group. Have them read it and discuss the questions:

- * What does this quote say about peacemaking?
- * As Christians, what are we called to do or be?
- * What does this mean for your life today?

Alternate passages: Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:9, Psalms 10:17-18, Romans 12:2, Exodus 1:15-21, Isaiah 65: 18-25, Luke 3:11, II Kings 6:20-23, I Peter 3:8-18, Micah 3:1-5, Acts 4:34, Galatians 3:28, Amos 5:21-24, Matthew 5:35-46, II Corinthians 5:18-19.



Other resources for Peace Worship: *Bread of Tomorrow* by Janet Morley, *Cry Justice!* by John de Gruchy, *Heart of Prayer* by Anthony Gittins, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, *Peace Worship Resources* available from Lutheran Peace Fellowship.



Words of Peace Worship

Moment of silence.

1. Call to worship

O God, you are a God of Life to us. You show your Self as our source of compassion as we struggle for whole relationships in the home, our communities, our nation and our world. We recognize your presence among us in our life and worship, and ask your gentle Spirit to constantly open our hearts to the ways of justice and peace. We ask all of this in your Name, because you alone are holy, our true justice and peace.

—National Peace With Justice Week

2. “You will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. The tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
—Luke 1:76
3. “Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr.
4. “If you want to make peace, you don’t talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.”
—Moshe Dayan
5. “Let us no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another...Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”
—Romans 14:13-23
6. Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, **let me sow love**;
when there is injury, **pardon**;
where there is doubt, **faith**;
where there is despair, **hope**;
where there is darkness, **light**;
and where there is sadness, **joy**.
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 [to ourselves] **that we are born to eternal life**.
7. “I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent.”
— Mohandas Gandhi
8. No matter how big a nation is, it is no stronger than its weakest people, and as long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you might otherwise.



9. “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.”
-Matthew 5:9

10. “It’s really a wonder that I haven’t dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd. You I keep them, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can’t build my hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery and death. And yet I think this cruelty will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again.”
-Anne Frank

**11. Show us, good Lord,
the peace we should seek,
the peace we must five,
the peace we can keep,
the peace we must forgo,
and the peace you have given in Jesus our Lord.**

12. “As he approached the path to the mount of olives, the whole multitude of disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power they had seen, saying “blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in Heaven, and glory in the highest heaven.” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He said to them, “I tell you, if they were silent, the stones themselves would shout out.”
-Luke 19:36-40

13. **Song:** Listen and sing the song “Even the Stones Will Cry” by Ray Makeever (page 4).
After: Everyone take a stone with you today to remember the words of the song: “and with the stones, we’ll cry out for justice, and with the trees, we’ll sing out for peace. With fire and water, with earth and sky, with all of creation, we’ll cry out.”

**14. O God, lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe.**

15. Peace to the nations, east and west,
peace to our neighbors, near and far,
peace to all women, peace to all men,
the peace of Christ above all peace.

16. “Jesus said to them, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
-John 20:21

Leader: Go, make peace
**Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

(Words in bold are to be read by everyone, other items are to be ready by individuals)



EVEN THE STONES WILL CRY

For Peace, Justice and the Integrity of Creation
1984 by Ray Makeever

VERSES 1, 2 and 3

1. If the day should come when the hun-gry have no bread When the
2. If the day should come when the great books are not read When our
3. If the day should come when the air we breathe is dead When the

rich have all been fed And still we can-not see When
lives are shaped in-stead by the el-e-ments of war When
whole earth has been bled 'til the earth will bleed no more When

those who work for right are locked a-way kept out of sight
peo-ple far and near are slaves to greed and hate and fear
o-ceans turn too warm, an ov-er-bear-ing sun brings harm,

And were blind to what it means that we are free (to chorus)
And we can't re-mem-ber what we're liv-ing for (to chorus)
And the bat-tered land can bare-ly be re-stored (to chorus)

CHORUS

E-ven the stones will cry out for just-ice E-ven the
(Last time only) And with the stones we'll cry out for just-ice And with the

trees will sing out for peace Fire and wat-er The earth and
trees we'll sing out for peace With fire and wat-er With earth and

sky All of cre-a-tion will cry out Cry out!
sky With all of cre-a-tion we'll cry out Cry out!

— All of cre-a-tion will cry
— With all of cre-a-tion we'll cry

VERSE 4

4. If the day should come when the crea-tures in this land

Join with hand in hand in faith and hope and love And

just-ice leads to peace And peace leads to in-teg-ri-ty

And cre-a-tion is the home it's meant to be. (to chorus)

“Peace Points” is a resource series from Lutheran Peace Fellowship that offers practical ideas and tips to encourage youth in their peace-making and justice seeking.



Lutheran Peace Fellowship (LPF) is a community of Lutherans across the U.S. and around the globe responding to the gospel call to be peacemakers and justice seekers. Founded in 1941, LPF offers a wide range of expertise, resources, and encouragement. LPF's work is supported by contributions from members, congregations, and synods, and grants from Wheat Ridge Ministries.

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