

Litany of Light and Peace

Praying amidst U.S.-Iran Conflict

Call To Prayer

Leader: May the Peace which passes all understanding be with your Spirit!

All: And with your Spirit!

Reader 1: Light is an image from scripture associated with peace, harmony and oneness with God. When all was in the darkness, God created light and called it good.

All: Light is a symbol of God's goodness and of all that is created. Let us celebrate the light of the world.

Reader 2: In the great story of the exodus from Egypt, the people were afraid and fearful for their lives. God gave them a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night so that they might find their way to freedom and peace.

All: We, too, are afraid when violence grows, and nations will lose their way. O, God, give us light that we might find our way to peace.

Leader: Let us place among us this candle. Let us light it and let it stand as a beacon calling us from darkness and warfare to light and peace.

(Here, a member of the family or group lights the candle, momentarily lifts it above their head, and places it on the table or altar.)

Let us pray to the God of life for peace:

All: God of light and love, you created all people in your image and called us to live in a way that upholds the dignity of others. In a world wounded by conflict — including escalating tensions with Iran — turn hearts away from violence and toward encounter and understanding.

Strengthen world leaders to act with wisdom, restraint, and moral courage. Guide them to uphold human dignity and seek peace through dialog rather than destruction.

Wherever wars and rumors of war abound may your peace and understanding quiet all fears and animosities. May you give new and powerful gifts of courage and leadership to those who speak and work for peace. Help us to confess that war in this time is a mark of our failing one another and contrary to your will.



All (cont): In these days of anxiety, free us from indifference. Form us as peacemakers committed to nonviolence, to the work of reconciliation, and to the building of a more peaceful and loving world. Amen

Leader: Then let us dedicate ourselves to the ministry of Peacemaking in the name of the God who brings true peace.

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!

Leader: Let us declare ourselves again in opposition to war and killing, in the name of the Lord of life.

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!

Leader: Let us seek the ways of security that hold promise for life and lasting peace rather than an expeditious exercise of military domination

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!

Leader: Let us again denounce war as a final rupture of the human family and violation of God's will for our lives

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!

Leader: Let us go from this place to bring light in darkness, hope in despair, and to sow true and lasting peace by word and deed

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!

Leader: Peace be with you!

All: And with your Spirit!

All: Amen.

Source: Adapted from a prayer service by the National Council of Churches