

# Peace Service Readings 2016

## World Peace Flame

Good evening everybody. Thank you, Lord Mayor, and thank you, Concord Interfaith, for bringing us all together in peace and for peace.

When the World Peace Flame was created in 1999 the dream was as simple as it is universal, one flame uniting all peoples of the world in peace.

Perhaps the most significant World Peace Flame is in The Hague in front of the Peace Palace, home of the United Nations International Court of Justice. It is surrounded by the World Peace Flame Pathway, where on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2004, for the first time in history, a statement for peace was signed by 197 ambassadors representing all of the peoples of the world.

How wonderful it would be for us all to become the example of Peace to the world and to see this flame in every home, every school, every workplace, every place of decision making and every place of worship with the intention of Peace to All.

This evening you will receive a small tea light candle, lit from the WPF. You can light other candles from it and thus keep the flame of peace burning, and pass it on, with the simple intention of that one simple, yet special flame, uniting all peoples of the world in peace.

May all beings be at peace, and may all beings find the true peace within their own hearts, OM SHANTE

## Bahá'í

I charge you all that each one of you concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity. When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love. Thoughts of war bring destruction to all harmony, well-being, restfulness and content.

Thoughts of love are constructive of brotherhood, peace, friendship, and happiness.

If you desire with all your heart, friendship with every race on earth, your thought, spiritual and positive, will spread; it will become the desire of others, growing stronger and stronger, until it reaches the minds of all men.

Do not despair! Work steadily. Sincerity and love will conquer hate. How many seemingly impossible events are coming to pass in these days! Set your faces steadily towards the Light of the World. Show love to **all; 'Love is the breath of the Holy Spirit in the heart of Man'. Take courage!** God never forsakes His children who strive and work and pray! Let your hearts be filled with the strenuous desire that tranquillity and harmony may encircle all this warring world. So will success crown your efforts, and with the universal brotherhood will come the Kingdom of God in peace and goodwill." - *Abdu'l Baha*

Brahma Kumari

**I let the body sit quietly ...**

**Consciously, I let the body relax...**

I allow any tension in the muscles to dissolve.

I become aware of my own breath  
**... and my breath becomes deeper  
and calmer ...**

As my body returns to a state of order and harmony, I focus my attention inside; that is, inside my mind.

As I look inwards and just observe my thoughts, they begin to slow down.

I can be selective and choose only to **have thoughts that I want to have...**

**I choose thoughts of peace ... and I hold peace in my mind.**

In this awareness of peace, I begin to **see the Being who is the Supreme ...**

**A Being of Light ... A Being of Truth ... A Being of Beauty.**

**I enter the presence of God ... and let His light touch me ... fill me**

**God's light is the light of love ... a love that is pure ... totally accepting ... unconditional...**

I absorb this pure love within my being.

**I know that I belong to God ... and that this is a connection of eternity... this is a relationship that is forever...**

**This love is a love that cleanses... a love that heals... a love that empowers... a love that transforms... a love that guides me.**

**With the power of God's love I am able to shed the layers of dust that I had accumulated.**

The power of this love awakens my own original truth and beauty.

The power of this love connects me **with every other soul...**

this is my eternal family – the whole of humanity.

The power of this love reaches out and touches other souls, awakening them.

The power of this love touches **nature ... and nature is healed and restored to a state of harmony.**

**God's love ... God's truth ... and God's beauty** - transforms everything.

I stay in the awareness of this eternal connection...

And experiencing my original qualities, I become a conduit to share peace, love and light with the world.

Om Shanti

Buddhist

*Extempore meditation using these themes:*

May all sentient beings have happiness and its causes,

May all sentient beings be free from suffering and its causes,

May all sentient beings never be separated from sorrowless bliss,

May all sentient beings abide in equanimity, free of bias, both greed and hatred.

"Let us meditate on compassion by visualising a sentient being who is suffering from acute pain or is in a very unfortunate situation. Then try to relate that being to yourself and think that he or she has the same capacity as you do for experiencing pain, joy, happiness, and suffering. Then simply focus on the unfortunate state of that being's existence, on the intense suffering, and try to develop a natural feeling of compassion toward that sentient being. Let the natural compassion arise in you toward that sentient being."

from *Healing Anger* by The Dalai Lama

## Christian

Readings from *Advices and Queries*, part of the book called *Quaker Faith and Practice*. *Advices and Queries* should be a challenge and inspiration to Friends in their personal lives and in their life as a religious community.

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.

Bring the whole of your life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Are you open to the healing power of **God's love? Cherish that of God** within you, so that this love may grow in you and guide you. Let your worship and your daily life enrich each other. Treasure your experience of God, however it comes to you. Remember that Christianity is not a notion but a way...

**We are called to live 'in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars'. Do you** faithfully maintain our testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with the spirit of Christ? Search out whatever in your own way of life may contain the seeds of war. Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God.

**Bring into God's light those** emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?

*Advices and Queries*, paragraphs 1, 2, 32 and 33

## Hindu

There is a great emphasis on peace in the world. Many countries and institutions claim to be working or acting to create peace. Peace is not only achieved by material fulfilment but also it is the goal of spiritual attainment. It is attained by being contented and not by being greedy.

The *Verdas* are the main sources of Hinduism. *Rig Veda Sama Veda*, *Yajur Veda* and *Atharva Veda*, all teach peace and universal **brotherhood** "in whatever directions, I turn my eyes, I look upon everyone my friend." **Personal** attachment, selfish interest and

ambition, can only cause sorrow and suffering. When, one is for all, and all are for one, there can be nothing but peace (*Atharva Veda Page 23/24*)

Truth is the basic element of peace. Veda talks about peace not only for the human society but for the whole universe.

OM DYAUH SHANTI  
ANTARIKSHAAGWAM SHANTI  
PRITHIVI SHANTI RAPAHA SHANTI  
ROSHADAYA SHANTI  
VANAIPATAAYAH SHANTI  
VISHVVE DEVAH SHANTI BRAHMA  
SHANTI SARVWANG SHANTI  
SHANTIREVA SHANTI SAMA  
SHANTI REVHI OM SHANTI SHANTI  
SHANTI (*Atharva Veda Page 23/24*)

The translation:

May there be peace in heaven. Peace in the atmosphere. Peace across the waters. May there be peace on earth. May peace flow from herbs, plants and trees. May enlightened persons distribute peace to all beings. May the Vedas spread peace everywhere; may all the objects give us peace everywhere. May that peace come to us and remain with us for ever. May there be peace, peace, peace.  
(*Yajur Veda Page 36/37*)

## Jewish

The Hebrew word for peace is SHALOM.

Peace is a concept that is central to Judaism.

Along with Truth and Justice, it is one of the key Jewish values.

**The Jewish people's desire for peace** has been expressed for thousands of years in our prayers and in biblical and rabbinic sources

**Albert Einstein said : 'Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding'**

Part of a prayer:

Grant us peace...your most precious gift. You, the eternal source of peace.

Strengthen the bonds of friendship among all peoples, all faiths and in all countries.

Through our children and our schools let us all make the world more friendly and respectful and so help increase peace for all.

SHALOM

## Muslim

1, In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.

2, Indeed, Allah enjoins justice, and the doing of good to others; and giving like kindred; and forbids indecency, and manifest evil, and wrongful transgression. He admonished you that you may take heed. (Al Quran 16:91)

3. And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways. And Indeed, Allah is with those who are of service to others. (A... Quran 29:70)

4. Indeed, Allah is with those who are righteous and those who do good. (Al Quran 16:129)

5. The reward of goodness is nothing but goodness. (Al Quran 55:61)

6. O ye people! fear your Lord, Who created you from a single soul and created therefrom its mate, and from them twain spread many men and women; and fear Allah, in Whose name you appeal to one another, and be mindful of your duty to Allah, particularly respecting ties of relationship. Verily, Allah watches over you. (Al Quran 4:2)

**7, and say, 'God! lighten our burden,'** and enter the gate in humility, We shall forgive you your sins, and surely We shall give increase to those who **do good."** (Al Quran 7:162)

8. No blame lies on the weak, nor on the sick, nor on those who find naught to spend, if they are sincere to Allah and His Messenger. There is no cause of reproach against those who do good deeds; and Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful. (Al Quran 9:91)

9, Thus indeed do We reward those who do good. (Al Quran 37:122)

10, Their flesh reaches not Allah, nor does their blood, but it is your righteousness that reaches Him. Thus has He subjected them to you, that you may glorify Allah for His guiding you. And give glad tidings to those who do good. (Al Quran 22:38)

11, Thus indeed do We reward those who do good. (Al Quran 37:122)

12, They ask thee what they shall **spend. Say: 'Whatever of good and abundant wealth you spend should be for parents and near relatives and orphans and the needy and the wayfarer. And whatever good you do,**

**surely Allah knows it well.'** (Al Quran 2:216 )

13 And him who seeks thy help, chide not. (Al Quran 93:11)

14, Those who believe and do good deeds, the Gracious God will create love in their hearts. (Al Quran 19:97)

Ameen

Pagan

Paganism is an umbrella term describing those who seek the Divine in Nature and all Life. Many Pagans like to focus on the feminine aspect of the Divine.

Circle around the World, Lady  
Fly to bring justice:  
So we can have Peace.  
Heal us, Lady,  
You need no knife to make the world tremble.

Circle the children,  
Make them whole,  
Gently, Lady,  
They are so afraid.

Circle the Peacemakers,  
And those who will not harm others,  
Help us, Lady,  
And aid us to balance,  
So we can see  
The sacred truth.

Circle around those that connect,  
Lady,  
To bring about divine good

On the universal path:  
Green, Yellow, Red, and Blue,  
Speak to the four directions,  
Your presence is powerful  
Let us light up the world  
And dissipate evil.

**Fly, Lady... be with us.**

Allow your presence to be gentle,  
Let those who love  
Bring gifts to each other.

Circle the world, Lady,  
**We need no knives or guns...**  
For you are with us.  
We are honoured,  
Divine Mother

Sikh

*This Shabad is by Guru Arjan Dev Ji in  
Raag Sorath. Pannaa (Page) 611 of  
Guru Granth Shaib Ji*

One Universal Creator God. By The  
Grace Of The True Guru:

The One God is our father; we are  
the children of the One God.

You are our Guru.

Listen, friends: my soul is a sacrifice, a  
sacrifice to You;

O Lord, reveal to me the Blessed  
Vision of Your Darshan. ||1||

Listen, friends: I am a sacrifice to the  
dust of Your feet.

This mind is yours, O Siblings of  
Destiny.

*This Shabad is by Guru Amar Daas Ji in*

*Raag Bilaaval. Pannaa (Page) 853 of  
Guru Granth Shaib Ji*

Salok, Third Mehla:

The world is going up in flames -  
shower it with Your Mercy,  
and save it!

Save it, and deliver it, by whatever  
method it takes.

The True Guru has shown the way  
to peace, contemplating the True  
Word of the Shabad.

Nanak knows no other than the  
Lord, the Forgiving Lord. ||1||

*Extract from Shabad is by Bhagat  
Kabeer Ji in Raag Prabhaatee. Pannaa  
(Page) 1349 of Guru Granth Shaib Ji*

Prabhaatee:

First, Allah created the Light; then,  
by His Creative Power, He made all  
mortal beings.

From the One Light, the entire  
universe welled up. So who is good,  
and who is bad? ||1||

O people, O Siblings of Destiny, do  
not wander deluded by doubt.

The Creation is in the Creator, and  
the Creator is in the Creation,  
totally pervading and permeating all  
places. ||1||

## Songs by Kian Samari

*"The Age of Light". Words by Steve Day*

**I try to speak about what You've done**

But fear and trembling get a hold of  
my tongue

I try to catch it but it slips away

Wont You give me peace give me  
something to say

**This is the age of light, Baha'u'llah has  
come.**

I try to talk as my eyes fill up

How can I drink from such a beautiful cup

I tried to touch your sorrow

But it breaks my heart and it crushes my  
soul

**This is the age of light, Baha'u'llah has  
come.**

There is much to do and people to see

This crazy world has got a hold on me

**But don't look down and don't look up**

I just keep on talking and don't give up

**This is the age of light, Baha'u'llah has  
come.**

**This is the age of light, Baha'u'llah has  
come.**

*"Louder Until Peace Comes". Words by  
Rosanna Lea*

**Well the war won't stop til a brother puts  
down his gun**

And a mother teaches justice to her son

And tell me how, how can we make war  
of nations end

If I still say hurtful things about my  
friends?

And oh my brother, do you have the  
time?

Sing out my sister, if you can answer this  
question of mine:

**Said isn't it time, isn't it time for peace to  
come?**

**When most of mankind will say they're still  
waiting for someone**

**It's been two thousand years since a poor  
Shepherd showed us how**

But all that I know is that we cannot give  
up now

Cos we gotta try harder, and we gotta be  
stronger

And we gotta love deeper, and we gotta  
sing louder

Louder until peace comes

Tell me why was I born in a clean hospital  
bed?

**When there's babies got no rooves over  
their heads**

And tell me why, why was I given freedom  
for no fee?

**When there's people lying in jail cells for  
their right to believe**

**And isn't it time, isn't it time for peace to  
come?**

**When all the world's children sing along to  
the words of the same hit songs**

**It's been six thousand years since a man  
named Krishna, He did come**

And what have we learned? How to shoot  
automatic guns

So we gotta try harder and we gotta be  
stronger

And we gotta love deeper and we gotta  
sing louder

**I said I'm gonna try harder and I'm gonna  
be stronger**

**And I'm gonna love deeper and I'm gonna  
sing louder**

Louder until peace comes

**And I know peace don't come from**  
presidents

You gotta build it in your heart

**They call peace a cause but it's an effect**

And it takes love to make it start

**So isn't it time, isn't it time for peace to**  
come?

So try harder, try harder, try harder

And be stronger, be stronger, be  
stronger

And love deeper, love deeper, deeper,  
people love deeper

And sing louder, sing louder, sing louder,

Louder until peace comes

**Until we don't need no more peace**  
songs

**I'm gonna sing my heart out, you can sing**  
along

Gonna sing louder until peace comes

Louder until peace comes.

*"Say: God Sufficeth". (Prayer by The*  
*Báb)*

Say: God sufficeth all things above all  
things, and nothing in the heavens or in  
the earth but God sufficeth. Verily, He  
is in Himself the Knower, the Sustainer,  
the Omnipotent.

A FINAL WORD:

"Go not to the temple to put  
flowers upon the feet of God;  
First fill your own house with the  
fragrance of love.

Go not to the temple to light  
candles before the altar of God;

First remove the darkness of sin  
from your heart.

Go not to the temple to bow down  
your head in prayer;

First learn to bow in humility before  
your fellow humans.

Go not to the temple to pray on  
bended knees;

First bend down to lift someone who  
is down trodden.

Go not to the temple to ask for  
forgiveness for your sins;

First forgive from your heart those  
who have sinned against you."

*(Rabindranath Tagore, First Asian Nobel*  
*Laureate in literature)*

And as you go -

May the road rise to meet you

May the wind be always at your back

May the Sun shine warm upon your  
face

The rain fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again

May God hold you

In the hollow of his hand.

*(A Traditional Irish Blessing)*

