

## Litany for Seeking Peace & Calm In the Midst of An Uncertain World

Leader: Lord, you know what consumes our hearts these days, and yet, we join the words of old,

**All: “Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer from the ends of the earth. I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.”**

Leader: Loving God, life’s events often open our hearts to how vulnerable and fragile life is. Life is uncertain for us and our loved ones. Today we share the words God spoke through the prophet, “Comfort, o comfort my people.” God still sends words of comfort and hope.

**All: We trust God says to us again today, “Do not fear. I have created you and formed you, and I have called you by name. You are mine and I am with you.”**

Leader: Dear friends, God says, “I will make with them a covenant of peace. I will make them and the region one of blessing. They shall be secure, and I will break the bars of their yoke, and save them from the hands that hurt them. They shall live in safety and, no one shall make them afraid.” Trust Jesus Christ is risen, and lives to fulfill the covenant!

**All: But Lord we are afraid. We wait and pray for your promises to be fulfilled. At times our voices join those of the psalmist, those of our Savior, and we too, cry out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? My God, I cry to you by day, but you do not answer; I cry to you by night, and I find no rest.”**

Leader: Lord, in the midst of our anger and fear, keep us calm, comforted and assured, for the psalm continues: “In you alone our ancestors put their trust, and you delivered them. To you alone they cried, and they were saved, and in you alone they trusted, and they were not disappointed.”

**All: Lord, your power alone rules all creation, yet at times we weep, and we cry out the words of long ago, “I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?” Trusting in you alone, we announce with unwavering conviction, “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”**

Leader: Lord, when confidence is shaken, when we are not sure where to turn, what to do, what to hold onto, speak to us, assure us as you did Paul, “Your grace is sufficient; your power is made perfect in weakness.”

**All: As we search to hold onto peace and order, increase in us such faith to trust what is true; “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not ever overcome it.”**

Leader: Creator of life and peace: Give us faith and courage to trust you when you say, “The day is coming when swords will be beaten into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks, and nation will no longer lift up sword against nation, and war will be no more.”

**All: Give us the peace only you can give, that all might see and realize and hold fast to your promised Word, for “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.”**

Leader: At times we feel alone or isolated. Today we give thanks, Lord, you are the tie that binds us together. We trust Jesus continues “to pray on our behalf that all people may be one people.”

**All: Even in times of despair, Jesus, you are faithful, and we remember you “are with us always, to the close of the age.”**

### **Stating Our Faith In God's Faithfulness, Written Based On Romans 8:31-39**

Leader: As we hear God's Word which restores us and gives us hope, we remember how God restored and called the Apostle Paul. Paul wrote words of great conviction, even in the midst of trials and uncertainties. Let us state our faith today, trusting and announcing the foundation of faith we hold onto and the promises of God, neither of which will ever fail us.

**All: "What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ..... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Amen.**

### **Sharing Words of Prayer for One and All**

Leader: Though the world reminds us we are vulnerable, The Risen Jesus invites us to live today in confidence and hope. "Do not worry about your life. If God clothes the grass of the field, will He not much more clothe you?" And "not one sparrow falls to the ground apart from The Father. Do not be afraid, for you are of more value to him than the sparrows." When we are troubled, "God gives us peace that passes all understanding, he keeps our hearts guarded and our minds in Christ Jesus." Therefore, "let us love one another as he has loved us" for peace comes in knowing "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that all who believe would not die, but have eternal life." In grace and peace and hope, we pray anew the prayer of St. Francis:

**All: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;**

**where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we would 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.**

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Litany for Seeking Peace & Calm In The Midst of An Uncertain World based on Psalm 61, Isaiah 40, Isaiah 43, Ezekiel 34, Psalm 22, Psalm 121, 2 Corinthians 12, John 1, Ephesians 2, Micah 4, Isaiah 11, John 17, Matthew 28, Matthew 11, Matthew 10, Philippians 4, John 3, John 15.