

International Day of Peace

“The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by a United Nations General Assembly resolution, first observed in 1982, and in 2001 the UN fixed its annual date as 21 September and formally designated it as a global day of non-violence and ceasefire.

The day promotes:

- Non-violence and ceasefire
- Peace education
- Human rights, justice, and equality
- Global cooperation and dialogue

The International Day of Peace remains a cornerstone of global efforts to encourage dialogue, reduce conflict, and cultivate a lasting culture of peace.

“Peace is not just made at conference tables, but in classrooms, neighborhoods, and everywhere people meet with open minds and open hearts. Together, day by day, we can build a more just world, with compassion, equality and dignity for all.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

2026 Theme: Invest in Peace - For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

On 21 September, the world marks the International Day of Peace.

Today, amidst staggering volatility, the search for peace feels overwhelming—but it has never been more urgent.

Peace is more than the absence of war; it is the foundation necessary to collectively tackle humanity’s challenges. It is the lived experience of safety, dignity, opportunities and cooperation in our daily lives.

Under the theme **Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day**, this year’s International Day of Peace honors the 'everyday architects of peace'—people driving local action, laying the groundwork for stability, and building a lasting peace from the ground up.

Everyone, everywhere can do their part for peace. Take one small step for peace every day:

- Give your time to help someone else.
- [Lend your voice](#) to drive positive change.
- Host a [Peace Circle](#) - an intergeneration youth-led conversation on solutions.
- Use your platform to promote a cause or tell a story of peace and hope

Devotion for September 21, 2026

Matthew 5: 1 – 12

Jesus said these words from the hillside near Galilee. He sat down and taught his companions saying;

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the Peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.”

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted all the prophets who were before you.

Jesus talked about God’s people being the salt of the earth, and the light of the world.

May we be willing to let the Lord work all of the above statements into our lives and stand strong in Jesus’ cleansing forgiveness and renewal.

May we live in the power of prayer and experience how it cleans our own thoughts and actions. We are God’s beloved children and we must be open to discovering our spiritual gifts so we can live into the plans the Lord has for us. How do we serve? What conversations around peace do we have at church or at home? Do you take time for devotions, prayers and words of encouragement? As the body of Christ we can cry together, build one another up with encouragement, and celebrate the joy and successes that God has granted to us. May our unity be more than a feeling inside, but a reality the world around. Amen.

Please also pray for the 27 places which have been identified by <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker> including:

Haiti and Mexico experiencing criminal violence, Instability in Venezuela and he Northern Triangle (Central America), Civil war in Myanmar, Conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and India and Pakistan, War in Ukraine, Civil War in Sudan, Conflict in Ethiopia, Cenrtal African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Instability in South Sudan and Violent Extremism in the Sahel.

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