



PRAYER MEETING

June 28

The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

A close-up photograph of a hand with fingers spread, reaching upwards, symbolizing prayer or reaching for heaven. The hand is positioned in the lower center of the frame, with the fingers pointing towards the top of the image.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Galatians 5: 13-14, 16-24

New International Reader's Version

My brothers and sisters, you were chosen to be free. But don't use your freedom as an excuse to live under the power of sin. Instead, serve one another in love. The whole law is fulfilled by obeying this one command. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

So I say, live by the Holy Spirit's power. Then you will not do what your desires controlled by sin want you to do. The desires controlled by sin do not want what the Spirit delights in. And the Spirit does not want what the desires controlled by sin delight in. The two are at war with each other. That's why you are not supposed to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the authority of the law.

The result of sin's control in our lives is clear. It includes sexual sins, impure acts and wild living. It includes worshiping statues of gods and worshiping evil powers. It also includes hatred and fighting, jealousy and fits of anger. Sinful desire is interested only in getting ahead. It stirs up trouble. It separates people into their own little groups. It wants what others have. It gets drunk and takes part in wild parties. It does many things of that kind. I warn you now as I did before. People who live like this will not receive God's kingdom.

But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their sinful desires to his cross. They don't want these things anymore.

Today, Lord, we thank you for the Holy Spirit's fruit of **peace**.

Music

Quiet your hearts and minds as you listen to today's music. Open to God and listen to what the Holy Spirit might say to you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wOthRdTWm4>

Hillsong, Young and Free

Praise

Congregational Reading from the Psalms

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety. Ps 4:8

The steps of a man are established by the Lord when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.

Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.

Ps 37:23,24,37

O God, do not keep silence; do not hold your peace or be still, O God.

Ps 83:1

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good, righteousness will go before him. Ps 85:6-1, 12-13

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace Ps 29:11

Reading about the word of the day

“Who hasn’t longed for peace, living in a world that is so often full of strife? The Hebrew word for peace, however, means much more than the absence of conflict or the end of turmoil.”

Shalom – peace—conveys not only a sense of tranquility but also of wholeness and completion.

No matter what we have done, how agitated or frantic we feel, or how chaotic life has become, Christ says to us today: “*Shalom aleikhem!* Peace be upon you.” Peace be with you in your relationship with God, with others, and with yourself. May his peace settle into your soul and rule in your heart. May it become the loom on which your life is woven, clothing you with his compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Paul assured the Ephesian Christians saying of Jesus, “He himself is our peace” Eph 2:14. When you pray to Sar Shalom—the Prince of Peace—you are praying to the One who is the source of all peace. To live in peace is to live in his presence.

Ann Spangler, Praying the Names of Jesus

Scripture Reading

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:6-7

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Reflect

Scripture Reading repeated

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7

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Individual Silent Prayer

Response

Responsive Reading

Leader: The fruit of righteousness will be peace;
the effect of righteousness will be quietness
and confidence forever.

People: My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Is 32:17-18

Leader: This is what the Lord says – your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.”

People: If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.”

Is 48:17-18

Leader: You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Is 26:3

People: Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. Do what you learned and received from me, what I told you, and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.

Phil 4:8-9 NCV

Leader: We pray, Lord, for PEACE:
for medical professionals and all who are
helping victims of this virus

People: for those who are sick and for
their families

Leader: for civil authorities and those
protecting our land

People: for those who are walking in paths of justice and righteousness

Together: for the world and all who suffer loss and fear and distress in these days. Lord, hear our prayer for your peace.

Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: We are thankful that you lead us beside still waters and renew our souls, our compassionate and caring Shepherd. Thank you that you understand the fears and concerns that distress us and steal peace. Lead us into your paths of righteousness, for your name's sake. We give you thanks, our Prince of Peace. Amen

Closing Prayer

A Benediction by Edward Hays

God of kindness and compassion,

I have come to the conclusion of this time of prayer and worship, mindful of my position as your priestly servant.

I throw wide open the windows of my heart so that the peace of your presence may pour out in all four directions, showering its blessing upon all the earth.

May this benediction heal the wounds of war,
bind up the bitterness of painful divisions
and mend broken hearts and failed
friendships,

As the blessing of your presence encircles the
earth, may it awaken in all people a great desire
to serve one another in humble and loving ways.

May it call proud hearts to gentleness and
awaken the child in those who seek to hold
power over others.

Inflame those hearts that have grown cold;
reawaken within the weary of soul your spirits
of youthfulness and joy.

Stir up your breath of freshness and enthusiasm
that slumbers in tired hearts.

May this blessing flow forth from my heart,
in your holy and infinite Name, in the
redeeming name of your Son and in the
living presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen