



Just Water.

Common Prayer for Peace and Justice

Ecumenical Water Network &
World Student Christian Federation

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This common prayer has been prepared by the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) and the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) on the occasion of World Water Day (22 March 2011) and the Universal Day of Prayer for Students (21 March 2011).

The [Ecumenical Water Network](#) is an initiative of Christian churches and organizations promoting the preservation, responsible management and the equitable distribution of water for all, based on the understanding that water is a gift of God and a fundamental human right. The network is coordinated by the World Council of Churches.

For the past three years, the Ecumenical Water Network has been providing weekly reflections and other resources on water for the season of Lent. In 2011, the *Seven Weeks for Water* focus on "[Water, conflict and just peace](#)", examining the links between access to water, water struggles, and building just peace. This theme has been chosen because of its relevance to communities and churches around the world and in view of the [International Ecumenical Peace Convocation](#) (IEPC) that takes in Jamaica, Kingston, from 17 - 25 May 2011.

The [World Student Christian Federation](#) (WSCF) has been a spirited, formational and life-giving movement of Christian students for over 110 years. Inspired by students' global engagement with the WSCF's 2010 advocacy theme of climate justice, the WSCF has launched a global campaign on Water Justice in 2011.

Find out more: water.oikoumene.org
www.wscfglobal.org

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Sources of materials:

Cover: Arpillera tapestry from unknown workshop in Chile, 1979, courtesy of the Kinderhilfe Chile-Bonn, copyright Roberta Bacic (curator); photo: Peter Williams / WCC
Call to worship: Church World Service (Worship with the World: Water)
Gloria en lo alto a Dios (Glory be to God on high): Imagine Peace, WCC 2008
Confession: Imagine Peace, WCC 2008
El mundo pide paz (All people long for peace): Imagine Peace, WCC 2008
Prayers of intercession: WCC 2011
Come, O Prince of Peace: Imagine Peace, WCC 2008
Blessing: Clare McBeath, 2003, used with kind permission

Introduction & Welcome

L: God of Life

**C: The earth belongs to you
And we are your people.**

L: We come in worship,

**C: acknowledging how much we need your grace
in a world where there is so much violence and greed.**

L: We long for the living water that refreshes and gives life

C: Seeking justice and praying for peace

L: You are our hope and our strength

C: We open our hearts to your word.

Amen

Song: Gloria en lo alto a Dios (*Glory be to God on high*)

D A/C# Bm Am D7 G F#o7 B7

Un ca - mi - no se a - bre ha - cia la luz a - nun - cia vi - da y sue - ña li - ber -
A new way has o - pened toward the light an - nounc - ing life and dreams of li - ber -

Em Em/D A/C# A7 D A/C# Bm E4sus E7

tad, ges - tan - do un tiem - po de jus - ti - cia y paz, un pue - blo u - ni - do ce - le -
ty, and birth - ñing times of jus - tice and of peace, when God's own peo - ple feast in

A A/C# D A/C# Bm Am D7 G F#o7 B7

bran - do va. Ho - ri - zon - te de ar - mo - ní - a y fe, un rum - bo cla - ro ha - cia la ple - ni -
un - i - ty. Vis - tas shine with har - mo - ny and faith, and there is plen - ÿ - tude in ev - ery

Em Em/D A/C# A D A/C# Bm E7 A7 D7

tud bus - can - do fuer - za en la co - mu - ni - dad. Des - te - llos so - mos de tu luz.
place which finds its strength in the com - mu - ni - ty. We are the spar - kles of your light.

G A/G F#m Bm Em A7 D D7

¡Glo - ria en lo al - to a Dios y en la tie - rra vi - da nue - va y paz!
Glo - ry be to God on high and on earth new life and last - ing peace!

G A/G F#m Bm Em A7 D

¡Glo - ria en lo al - to a Dios y en la tie - rra vi - da nue - va y paz!
Glo - ry be to God on high and on earth new life and last - ing peace!

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Confession

Different readers from among the congregation read the opening sentences:

In 2010, massive violence was used in at least 28 conflicts around the world.

Women in some countries have a higher chance of being raped than of learning how to read.

Those defending justice and human rights often become victims of death threats, assaults, criminalization and murder.

Every year, millions die from poverty – from malnutrition, from the lack of safe water and sanitation, from the lack of medical treatment and health care.

Creation is groaning, not from the pains of childbirth but from the wounds we inflict on it.

L: O God of peace, you know us from before we were formed in our mother's womb. Forgive us when we only have good intentions and do not commit ourselves to concrete action for peace and justice.

C: Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.

O God of justice, you judge our human race with mercy.

Forgive us when we allow your image in us to be marred as we remain passive in face of so much violence and exclusion.

Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.

O God of love, you have created humankind to be one great family.

Forgive our inability to be reconciled with others, both our dear ones and our enemies.

Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.

O God of grace, you have given us the gift of speech to be an instrument for change.

Forgive us for the times when we have spoken too hastily without thinking of the consequences, or have remained silent out of fear or indifference.

Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.

O God of life, you have placed us on this earth to tend and watch over it. Forgive us if we have failed to care for your world, to protect nature, the home you have given us, the home of our ancestors and of our descendants. Help us to promote life and seek peace.

Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.

Merciful God, accept our confession and forgive us.

Open our eyes to the causes of injustice and conflict, make us aware of our capacity to make change happen.

Amen

Song: El mundo pide paz (*All people long for peace*)

Adagio

Dm F

¡El mun - do pi - de paz, el mun - do pi - de luz, el
All peo - ple long for peace, all peo - ple long for light, all

Gm 1. A 2. A

mun - do pi - de a - mor, oh Dios! ¡El Dios!
peo - ple long for love, O God! All God!

Dm C

¡Es - cu Lord, cha el cla - mor de tu as
O Lord, hear your peo - ple as

B^b 1. A 2. A

pue - blo, Se - ñor! ¡Es - ñor!
they cry to you! O you!

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Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:8-9:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
And the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Bible Readings

Genesis 26.17-22:

So Isaac departed from there and camped in the valley of Gerar and settled there. Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham; for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the names that his father had given them. But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herders of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herders, saying, 'The water is ours.' So he called the well Esek, because they contended with him. ²¹Then they dug another well and they quarreled over that one also; so he called it Sitnah. ²²He moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it; so he called it Rehoboth, saying, 'Now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.'

John 4:1-14:

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John - although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Reflection

For inspiration take a look at the biblical reflections and additional resources on "Water and Just Peace" at www.oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water.

Prayers of intercession

The front cover of the order of service shows a tapestry from Chile during the time when the dictator Pinochet ruled the country. It shows what happened when this government cut the water for poor people. The people found a communal solution. Immediately the women formed a 'bucket brigade' to bring the water from the well. The boys helped fill the buckets. The women pass it from one to the other so their families could drink and wash.

The form of our prayers is inspired by the arpillera: We have each prayer on a card. A "bucket brigade" passes the card with the next prayer from hand to hand until it reaches the end. Then it is read aloud and we respond.

Holy God, whose Spirit swept over the face of the water at creation, hear our prayers for all who suffer from lack water today: We pray for a just and peaceable sharing of water among nations and peoples. We pray for all who put their lives at risk as they stand with communities who struggle for their land and forests, rivers and springs.

For peace on Earth and peace with the earth, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who seek to rebuild communities shattered by the circle of economic injustice, poverty, and violence. We pray for all women who suffer from violence, and yet continue to care for family and children, to grow and prepare food, carry water, earn a living and offer support to others. We pray for all whose homes are lost to floods, typhoons and hurricanes, and for those whose lands and homes will be swallowed by the sea.

For peace on Earth and peace with the earth, hear our prayer.

We pray for all students, the future leaders of nations and peoples, the future leaders of the market and economies, of faith communities, the future leaders in arts and education that they may hear and promote your call to justice and peace. We pray for those who are unaware, those who cannot bear the knowledge of the suffering of others, or feel helpless in the enormity of the crisis, that you will open their hearts, reveal their strength, and open their voices in prayer and action.

For peace on Earth and peace with the earth, hear our prayer.

Holy God, we pray for just peace:

Open our hearts, so that we who seek your way of life
may be bold in witnessing to your longing for justice and peace:

That all may be free from fear and from want;

That enmity, exclusion and oppression may be overcome;

And that the whole of Creation may rejoice and glorify you.

For peace on Earth and peace with the earth, hear our prayer.

Amen.

Song: Come, O Prince of Peace

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff has four lines of lyrics underneath it, and the second staff has three lines of lyrics underneath it. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Dm, Eb, C, Bb, C, F, A/E for the first staff, and Dm, C, Bb, A, Dm for the second staff.

1. Come, O Prince of Peace, save your people from all fear.
2. Come O Prince of Peace, re-fine and pur-i-fy us.
3. Come O Prince of Peace, ex-cult o'er us with song.
4. Come O Prince of Peace, fill the hun-gry with good things.

In-crease our love for o-thers and strength-en our hearts.
Help our lead-ers rule in peace and grant your fav-our to us.
Let your peace guard your child-ren so that just-ice rules.
Res-cue those who are op-pressed save O Lord, save us.

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The Lord's Prayer

(in our many languages)

Sharing the peace

Blessing

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us;

May the blessing of the Son

Who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us;

And may the blessing of the Spirit

who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us

from now into eternity.

Amen.

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Postlude