

Prayer for Peace

St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may 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.

Questions for Reflection Around Tables

1. Which lines from Deut. 10, John 16, and Bowler and St. Francis's prayers stand out and connect most for you?
2. How do these scriptures and prayers give a window into the virtues of courage and peace?
3. What from these texts calls you, compels you, confuses you, convicts you, or makes you curious?
4. Where have you seen or experienced courage or peace lived out lately?
5. What prayers for courage or for peace are on your heart today?

Prayers of the People Around Tables | Lord's Prayer

Give thanks for those who died in service to our country and pray for their families and loved ones.
Offer specific names or needs as they apply.

Pray for those who serve in our military, for federal employees, and for our nation.
Offer specific names or needs as they apply.

Pray for those who are sick or grieving and the loved ones who offer care and support.
Offer specific names or needs as they apply.

Pray for all who work for all who, with courage, work for peace and justice.
Offer specific names or needs as they apply.

One: We join together in the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.**

Offering Our Gifts | "Be Still My Soul"

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Sharing in Holy Communion | "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Benediction & Blessing Over the Meal

Today's Offering

Donations designated for a specific church will go directly to the church named. All unnamed or undesignated gifts will go toward our *Neighborkind Collective* "New House, New Home" Spring 2025 fundraising campaign for New Hope Housing, resourcing our neighbors transitioning from homelessness to housing by stocking and outfitting their apartments with the initial essentials.



NEIGHBORKIND
COLLECTIVE

Memorial Weekend
Community Worship Service & BBQ
Sunday, May 25, 2025

Brookfield Park Shelter
7417 Floyd Ave, Springfield, VA
11:00a Service, 12:00p BBQ

*a Neighborkind Collective event hosted by
Franconia United Methodist Church & the Kingstowne Communion*

Order of Worship

May 25, 2025

Gathering Music | “O God Our Help in Ages Past”

Welcome, Announcements & Connection Opportunity

Call to Worship

Leader: In a world filled with violence and war,

People: we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.

Leader: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

People: we gather together to remember the promise of justice for all.

Leader: In a world filled with cowardice and selfish ambition

People: we gather together to give thanks for the courage of the few for the sake of the many.

Leader: In a world filled with hunger and greed,

People: we gather together to share a meal and be reminded of the promise of plenty for all.

Leader: In a world filled with grief, loss and isolation,

People: we gather together to connect and belong, and to discover hope for life’s journey.

Leader: In a world filled with a cacophony of competing voices and interests,

People: we gather together to lift our voices in praise to the One who makes us instruments of peace for the world.

Singing Together

Those gathered choose at random six or so hymns included in our community songbook.

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray:

On this sacred day of remembrance, we gather as one body, united in faith and gratitude. We stand together in honor of those who have given their lives in service to our nation. We thank you for the gift of community, for the bonds that transcend walls and traditions, and for the shared calling to love and serve. May this time of worship be a reflection of your grace and a testimony to the unity found in Christ. Bless the families who mourn, the veterans who carry memories of sacrifice, and all who seek peace in a world that longs for healing. May our prayers be a source of comfort, our songs a tribute to courage, and our fellowship a reminder that love conquers all. Guide us, O Lord, to be instruments of peace, to honor the past with wisdom, and to build a future rooted in justice and compassion. In the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to love and serve, we pray, Amen.

Old Testament Reading | Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 17-21

So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him you shall serve; to him you shall hold fast; and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God who has done for you these great and awesome things that your eyes have seen.

Gospel Reading | John 16:23-33

“Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but will tell you plainly of the Father. On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.” His disciples said, “Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face trouble, but take courage: I have overcome the world!”

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Words for Reflection

A Blessing for the Brave

Kate Bowler

Blessed are you, brave one.
you who perform big courageous acts of sacrifice.
the firefighters and military
and activists and doctors
and nurses and paramedics.
You who move toward danger
so the rest of us feel a little more safe.

Blessed are you, brave one.
you who do small acts of great love.
The memory keepers
who remember for those who can’t.
and the parents who long to keep our kids small and safe.
Or you who teach
for far less than you are worth.
or pastor even when the cranky member complains
about the music again.
You who hold people’s hand
all the way to the edge.
and give your handkerchiefs
when they are needed.
Your great love moves you closer
toward people’s great need.

Blessed are you, brave one.
you who are grieving,
even if you feel like you are doing it all wrong.
You who have received the bad news.
you who are sitting in the shards of a life
that has come undone.
In your fear.
in your shaky hope.

Brave looks like that too sometimes.
You who live still.
brave and scared at the same time.