

And into any house
which you enter, first say,
'Peace be to this house!'

[LUKE 10.5]

International Day of Peace

THIS YEAR THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, which is held annually on 21 September, falls on a Saturday. Last year it was on a Friday and hundreds of Islamic centres in the UK and overseas lead their local communities in observing the day.

This year the Christian Muslim Forum, on behalf of the London Peace Network, is extending this project to churches gathering for worship on the following day, **Sunday 22 September**. Churches will be inviting visitors from different faith communities to join them during or after Sunday worship to exchange messages of peace, to celebrate local peace-building activities and to enjoy the hospitality offered.

Local schools, churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, gurdwaras and community organisations will be able to observe the day by accepting these invitations.

Churches Together in England (CTE) is supporting the International Day of Peace. Christian churches and congregations are encouraged to participate by inviting visitors to mark the occasion at local churches. Please register with one of the contacts overleaf.

The theme for 2013 is Education for Peace. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General said:

"It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies."



Messages of Peace from Religious Traditions

CHRISTIANITY

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good for those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. [Matthew 5:38-44]

JUDAISM

Great is peace, for God's name is peace ... Great is peace, for it encompasses all blessings ... Great is peace, for even in times of war, peace must be sought ... Great is peace, for when the Messiah comes, he will commence with peace. [MIDRASH LEVITICUS RABBAH 9:9]

ISLAM

The worshippers of the All-Merciful are they who tread gently upon the earth, and when the ignorant address them, they reply, "Peace!"

[QUR'AN, 25:63]

BUDDHISM

Life is dear to all. Comparing others with oneself, one should neither kill nor cause to kill. [DHAMMAPADA: 130]

JAINISM

There is no quality of soul more subtle than non-violence and no virtue of spirit greater than reverence for life. [MAHAVIRA]

BAHA'I FAITH

All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization. The Almighty beareth Me witness: to act like the beasts of the field is unworthy of man. Those virtues that befit his dignity are forbearance, mercy, compassion and loving-kindness towards all the peoples and kindreds of the earth. [BAHA'ULLAH]

HINDUISM

Ahimsa [non-violence] is the greatest gift. Ahimsa is the highest self-control. Ahimsa is the highest sacrifice. Ahimsa is the highest power. Ahimsa is the highest friend. Ahimsa is the highest truth. Ahimsa is the highest teaching. [MAHABHARATA 18:116:37-41]

SIKHISM

No one is my enemy,
No one is a foreigner,
With all I am at peace,
God within us renders us,
Incapable of hate and prejudice.
[GURU NANAK]

ZOROASTRIANISM

We humbly request the Creator Ahura Mazda to bless this house, this country and the planet we inhabit. May obedience smite disobedience. May peace smite discord. May generosity smite stinginess. May reverence smite pride. May truthfulness smite falsehood. May happiness, offspring and innate wisdom never leave us. May the long friendship of Asha (Righteousness) which gives comfort and ease never leave us. We pray that good thoughts, good words and good deeds neutralise evil thoughts, evil words and evil deeds thus bringing peace in this world. May our good and righteous actions transform the world enabling all to live a long comfortable life.

To register as a participating church, and for supporting materials and further information, please contact:

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FURTHER INFORMATION

1. The London Peace Network is a broad coalition of organisations, led by London Boroughs Faiths Network, which came together in 2012 to promote peace-building and the Olympic Truce. www.londonpeacenetwerk.wordpress.com
2. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. www.un.org/en/events/peaceday
3. Peace One Day is working towards a global day of ceasefire and non-violence on 21st September. www.peaceoneday.org



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