

Zechariah's vision



Text: Zechariah 8:1-13

Focus statement: We celebrate a dream of peace for all people.

Visuals:

People of many colors poster by Mennonite Central Committee, the international peace sign, and the word “peace” in different languages, a peace plant and dove

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to worship: Litany from Isaiah 52:7, 9-10

Prayer:

Glorious God, invade our hearts and hurting world with your glory and power. We long for peace. May your Spirit stir us so that when we depart from here today we will know how we can be your instruments of peace. May your kingdom come and your will be done.

PRAISING

Song suggestions:

HWB 407 *We are people of God's peace*
SJ 31 *He came down*

SJ 27 *God of the Bible*
SJ 71 *Alleluia, the great storm is over*

OFFERING

LISTENING TO GOD

Confession and response: SJ 66 and HWB 733

Children's time:

There are many good books to help children understand the way of peace and how they can participate in it. Read *Praying with Our Feet* by Lisa D. Weaver (Herald Press). If you have mainly younger children, read *Walk in Peace* by Ingrid Hess (Herald Press). Give out crayons and paper and invite children to draw a picture of their dream for peace.

Song: SS 71 *Gentle God when we are driven*

Scripture reading: Zechariah 8:1-13 (Use the reader's theater in *Multiage guide*, p. 90.)

Sermon seeds: (See *Connect* and *Youth* for additional inspiration.)

This passage is full of wonderful word pictures. Capitalize on that. Peace is a very deep and wide concept. It is understood best with the word “shalom,” the total well-being of a people. Peace can feel so broad and big that it is easy to keep it abstract. Martin Luther King, Jr. is well known for his “I have a Dream” speech. What is your dream of peace for your congregation? Make it practical. Do you need to focus within your body or

outside? Acts of peace spring from the deep well of Jesus Christ. Conclude with a time of silent reflection while instrumental music is played.

RESPONDING TO GOD

Song of response: HWB 371 *Let there be light, Lord God*

Prayers of the people

SENDING

Song: HWB 346 *Dona nobis pacem* or “Shalom to you” on the *Gather’Round* CD

Benediction:

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is still at work through us today. Read Zechariah 8: 12-13 or use the closing litany in *Connect*, p. 121.
