



WORLD PEACE SUNDAY

September 25, 2011

Worship Materials from Mennonite World Conference

Theme:

Ambassadors for Christ: Our Ministry of Reconciliation

Purpose:

To emphasize the need for Christians and for the church of Christ to be agents of reconciliation in a hurting and violent world.

Some suggestions for focusing this theme:

1. SING FOR PEACE

Sing songs that point to the need for...

- Peace with God
- Peace within ourselves
- Peace in our families
- Peace in the church
- Peace among people
- Peace with the environment

Some suggestions are:

- We are one in the Spirit
- How Great Thou Art
- Bringing in the Sheaves

2. PRAY FOR PEACE

Pray for peace, justice and love in our lives, in our families and in our communities. Remember those regions where there is conflict and countries that are at war.

3. CONFESS OUR NEED FOR PEACE

- Make a list of our own actions that do not honor God
- Search ourselves to know our weaknesses and in what ways we disobey God

4. REPENT

- Confess our own need for change
- Ask for forgiveness
- Commit to practicing what is needed to become agents of reconciliation

5. ACT FOR PEACE

- Each one invite to attend church a brother or sister with whom he or she has conflict with the goal of worshipping together and seeking reconciliation with each other.
- Each one renew his or her engagement to be an agent of reconciliation as an ambassador of Christ on a daily basis.



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6. PREACH PEACE

Some ideas and biblical texts for a sermon:

a. II Corinthians 5:17-21

- New life in Christ, a life of peace and happiness, of obedience to the lordship of Jesus Christ and his word, glorifies God in heaven and makes peace reign on earth among people of goodwill who work for God's glory.
- God created a harmonious world so that we could live happily (Genesis 1.31), but by turning away from God and God's plan, we have lost the peace and joy of living on the earth in harmony with the environment.
- God, through his love, continues to bring us back to life. Through Christ, God offers us the opportunity to rediscover a life of happiness, full of peace and justice.

b. Romans 16:16-27

- Men and women must decide to break other covenants and return to God through Christ, obey his lordship and practice his teaching in order to experience new life in Christ.
- To live life in Christ is to live a life of love, forgiveness, unity, solidarity and peace.
- Peace is understood not only as the absence of conflict and violence, the absence of disagreements and misunderstandings, a calm, serene, tranquil life, but rather peace is understood as harmony between us and God, as reconciliation with God.
- 4 dimensions of peace can be identified:
 - * Reconciliation with God
 - * Reconciliation with ourselves
 - * Reconciliation with the “other” and with the community
 - * Reconciliation with nature (creation)

7. FINAL REFLECTIONS

- God is a God of peace. By becoming human, Christ brought peace to humankind. Those who are in Christ have life and peace, are children of God and ambassadors of peace.
- As Christ lives in us, we become ambassadors for peace so that the world can also experience God's plan of salvation. God became flesh and reconciled the world to himself.
- Our vocation is to obey the lordship of Jesus Christ, as Paul says: “It is not I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

Material sponsored by the Peace Commission of Mennonite World Conference

Designated region: Africa

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