

WE ARE CHURCH International

Saturday, 10 October 2026

Theme: **Focus on Peace.**

Commentator: Virginia S.

Introduction:

The news we watch each day, brings the active wars around the world to our homes in real time. It pains us to see the death and destruction wrought by the latest weapons of war like drones and guided missiles using AI.

When the UN was created in 1945 after the death and destruction of World War II, the world resolved that there would be no more war. That disputes between nations would be resolved using diplomacy. But 81 years later, we have two big wars raging and several low intensity conflicts in several parts of the world.

During our liturgy today let us reflect on what we as Catholics can do to address this situation. How can we work towards peace?

Hymn: Peace is flowing like a River.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plz-1VB2Wgg

Reader 1: CHRISTIAN W. First Reading: Baruch 3:10-14.

Why is it Israel that you find yourself in an enemy land? Why have you grown old in a foreign country? You are ritually unclean like the dead; You are already counted among the dead. But why? It is because you have left the source of Wisdom! If you had walked in God's ways, you would have lived in peace forever. Learn where understanding, strength and insight are to be found. Then you will know where to find a long and full life, light to guide you and peace.

Reader 2: SOLINE H. Penitential Rite:

For failing to be messengers of peace in our community, country and world.

Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy**

For failing to use the power we exercise as individuals, as privileged persons, as an elder and, as leaders to speak peace and make peace,

Christ have mercy. **All: Christ have mercy**

For failing to denounce violence, hatred, the use of weapons to kill, wherever or whenever we encounter it,

Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy**

God of love, your son Jesus demonstrated how we can use power to bring peace. May we work towards peace, by promoting your message of peace and denounce the misuse of power that hurts and kills people. **Amen.**

Reader 3: COLM H. Second Reading: Ahimsa and Truth as Pillars of Peace

Gandhi's concept of peace was not simply the absence of war. It was an active, disciplined state of being, built on two inseparable foundations: Ahimsa and Satya (truth). According to Gandhian scholarship, the Sanskrit word *Ahimsa* literally means "lacking any desire to kill" – encompassing not just physical harm, but harmful thoughts, harsh words, dishonesty, and hatred. For Gandhi, all of these were manifestations of violence. His was not a passive ethics; it was a demanding, active commitment to doing no harm to any living being, in thought, word, or deed.

Truth was inseparable from this commitment. Gandhi believed Ahimsa to be a creative energy force that led individuals toward *Satya*, or Divine Truth. He held that violence is fundamentally grounded in the belief that one party has sole possession of truth – a position he firmly rejected. Since human beings only ever grasp relative, partial truths, non-violence becomes the only legitimate path in any conflict: it keeps one open to the other side's perspective, rather than trying to destroy it.

This insight gave rise to **Satyagraha** – a term Gandhi coined from *satya* (truth) and *agraha* (firm insistence). Satyagraha is not passive resistance. It seeks to eliminate antagonism without harming the antagonist – to transform the relationship, not end it. A Satyagrahi accepts suffering without retaliation, aims to convert the opponent through conscience rather than coercion, and regards voluntary suffering as a demonstration of sincerity.

Psalm: Taize Hymn *Holy Spirit Come to us* (Stop at 2.45)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zasyztJkOg&list=PLFWKog8SXsyXOYky3YrKPXz87F18c5Ak9&index=3

Reader 4: RENATE H. Gospel: Mark 10 35 – 37; 41-45. *Jesus shows that true power comes from humble service, love, and sacrifice.*

James and John the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And they said to him. "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

When the ten heard this they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them. "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them and their greater ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

This is the Good NEWS of Jesus.

ALL: Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sharing of reflections on today's readings.

Commentator: You are invited to share your prayers for peace:

Let us pray for Yuval Abraham and Rachael Szor, who courageously produced the film NAZA to put the truth out to the world about the genocide in Gaza. Protect them God, from the threats they and their families face and allow the world to see the truth.

Response to the prayers will be:

ALL: ***God of love, make us channels of your love and peace.***

All are invited to share their prayers of intercession.

Prayer over the bread: ALL: God of love accept this bread symbol of human labour and love may we always be willing to share our bread with the hungry, and those who search for opportunities to earn a living to feed their families.

Prayer over the wine: ALL God of love accept this cup a symbol of the thirst of people for peace, for a better life, for sustenance, may we always be in solidarity with all who are thirsty, and work towards peace.

Reader 5: MAEVE W. Gathering around the Table:

As we gather around this Eucharistic table that spans oceans across the world, God of love, fill us with gratitude, peace and love. Help us to spread this love to all those we come into contact. Help us to see you in all human beings who worship you in different ways, even those who do not recognize your existence.

Help us to feel the pain of all those who are suffering due to war and conflict, and actively work to do away with the false idea that war brings peace. Help us to spread awareness that war has never and will never ever gain anything but cause innocent deaths and unnecessary destruction, that countries have struggled to build to sustain their population. War benefits only the business owners of industries of weapons for war.

Help us to halt the narratives of hate and mistrust and instead build narratives of peace, welcoming and justice.

For this Jesus sacrificed his entire life, in the cause of justice, peace and truth, and commanded us to do the same when he took bread, broke it, gave it to his disciples at table and said “Do this in memory of me”.

He invited us to join in his sacrifice to the extent of even shedding our own blood in the cause of standing for peace with love when he said, “Take this cup and drink of it for it is my blood shed for all, Do this in memory of me”

May we continue to strive for peace through love until your reign of love prevails over the earth. **Amen.**

Commentator: Let us now join as one family of God, as sisters and brothers and recite the Lord's prayer

ALL: Loving God, whose spirit fills the earth with your presence, may your love emanate through us and all your creation. May we see as holy all of creation and work to preserve it. May we strive to do your will and help others along the way of peace. May all peoples have bread to eat, let us never fight over what does not belong to us, and help us to forgive and convert people thru love. Help us with your grace when we are tempted by evil, so that we can eradicate evil from the world. Amen.

Commentator: Let us offer to all a gesture of peace.

We will now consume the blessed bread and drink.

Hymn: Make me a Channel of your Peace,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qa_lnLcxNlE

Reader 6: RENATE H. Thanksgiving Prayer:

God of love and peace, we thank you for this gathering of your people from around the world, united in faith, as we reflected on your message of love and peace. Be with us as we go back into our daily lives to be your messengers of love and peace to all we come in contact with. Accompany us Sophia, spirit of God, to remind us to walk the way of peace and love Amen.

May God bless us with love and peace as we leave this gathering in the name of our God of love, Jesus our Redeemer accompanied by Spirit Sophia to be heralds of love, healing and peace. **Amen.**