

A Prayer for the Kind of Peace That Doesn't Behave

by Mark Sandlin

**We were taught to pray for peace. For calm.
For things to settle down.
And honestly, sometimes that's what we want too.
But Love keeps showing up right where things are messy.
Right where nothing is settled.
Right where silence would be easier.
Love keeps reminding us that peace isn't the same thing as quiet.
And harmony isn't faithful if it only works for the people already comfortable.
So today, we pray a little differently.
Where there is hatred, don't let us rush past it with nice words or nervous smiles.
Help us stay. Help us tell the truth. Help us refuse to look away.**



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Let Love disturb us.

**Where there is injury, teach us how to tend wounds gently,
and also how to ask why those wounds keep happening over and over again.**

Let Love disturb us.

Where there is despair, give us hope that doesn't flinch.

Hope that doesn't disappear when things get awkward or costly.

**Hope that stays. And where there is darkness, give us light;
not the kind that makes everything feel better,
but the kind that shows us what we'd rather not see.**

Let Love disturb us.

Where we've grown numb, shake us awake.

**Where tradition matters more to us than actual human lives,
and we benefit from that, even quietly,
don't let us pretend we don't notice.**

To this, we say Amen!



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Closing Prayer - A Prayer for the Kind of Peace That Doesn't Behave
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**Love keeps whispering, and sometimes shouting,
that gentleness isn't weakness, that kindness isn't passivity,
and that silence is not peace.**

Because peace without justice isn't peace.

It's just harm with better manners.

Let Love disturb us.

Disturb our comfort.

Disturb the excuses we make so we can sleep at night.

Disturb the ways we call convenience "faith."

Mess with our calendars.

Mess with our money.

Mess with the tables where we decide who gets a seat and who doesn't.



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Let Love disturb us.

Help us want more than being understood.

Help us want understanding.

Help us want more than being liked.

Help us want to love in ways that actually cost us something.

Not just talking about justice but practicing it.

With our bodies.

With our choices.

With our lives.

Move us closer to those pushed to the edges.

**Teach us how to love without fixing, without saving,
without standing at a safe distance.**

Make us channels, not just of peace, but of disruption.

Let Love disturb us.

Until Love refuses to settle for the world as it is.

To this, we say Amen!



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