



Everyone Can Be an Artisan of Peace

Theological Reflection #1



Cultivate our own inner peace, self-respect and recognition of one's own dignity.

Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into our everyday lives.

Opening Hymn *Earthen Vessels* (refrain)

We hold a treasure not made of gold
In earthen vessels, wealth untold

One treasure only, the Lord, the Christ
In earthen vessels.

Readings

Matthew 6:25-34

John 14: 25-27

Ephesians 1:3-6

(Take 5 or so minutes for contemplative silence.)

Ponder and Share

1. Can I believe in my own goodness? What are some things that remind me to love myself?
2. What events help me to remember my personal dignity and enable me to know I am good and holy?
3. As an earthen vessel loved and cherished by God, what do I feel called to do?

Prayer response: Psalm 8: Adaptation by Nan Merrill

O Love, my Beloved,
How powerful is your Name in all the earth!
You whose glory is sung in heaven
By the angels and saints,
Who with the innocence and spontaneity of a
child,
Confound those who are mighty and proud,
You quiet the unloving and fearful.

When I look up at the heavens,
At the work of Love's creation,
At the infinite variety of your Plan;

What is woman that you rejoice in her,
And man that you delight in him?
You have made us with your image,
You fill us with your Love;
You have made us co-creators of the earth!
Guardians of the planet!
To care for all your creatures,
To tend the land, the sea,
And the air we breathe;
All that you have made,
You have placed in our hands

Sing: Earthen Vessels (refrain)

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Poem excerpt from Maya Angelou's A Brave and Startling Truth

When we come to it
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body
Created on this earth, of this earth
Have the power to fashion for this earth
A climate where every man and every woman
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety
Without crippling fear

When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this
world
That is when, and only when
We come to it.

Prayer (attributed to Cardinal John Henry Newman)

O Jesus, flood my soul with your spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that my life be only a radiance of yours.

Shine through me so that everyone I come in contact with may feel your presence in me.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus.

Stay with me and then I will begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others.

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Closing ritual

Blessing the person next to you, say something affirmative e.g. I thank my God for the gift of you.

You are gift for the world today. Then place your hands on that person and pray:

May the blessing of God go before you
May her grace and peace abound
May her Spirit live within you

May her love wrap you round.
May her blessing remain with you always.
May you walk on holy ground.

(Sign of peace)

Invitation to Action

Expressions of Peace

Consider creating and sharing a poem, photograph, prayer, or other work of creative expression that highlights our commitment to “cultivate our own inner peace, self-respect and recognition of one’s own dignity”. These artistic expressions of peace will be shared throughout the province to help inspire our efforts to cultivate peace.

Practice

Anytime you catch yourself engaging in negative self-talk, stop it. Take a moment to look in a mirror and remind yourself that you are a unique and beautiful reflection of God who loves you unconditionally and always. Then reflect that peace and love to those you encounter.

- Prepared by the Shalom Peace and Nonviolence Committee



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