



Everyone Can Be an Artisan of Peace

Theological Reflection #6

- ✚ Promote peace-building through nonviolent policies, practices and strategies.
- ✚ Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into our everyday lives.

Opening Hymn: *Here I Am, Lord* by Dan Schutte or *Gather Us In* by Marty Haugen

Readings **Matthew 5:1-12** **Laudato Si' #177** **You Are Sent, GD 2f & 2i**
(Take 5 or so minutes for contemplative silence.)

Ponder and Share - How do these readings call me to practice nonviolence in my daily life?

Prayer of Forgiveness **Response: God, forgive us!**

- ❖ We abuse our children and spouses. **Response:**
- ❖ We allow pollution of our air and water, use the gifts of the land and water for greed. **Response:**
- ❖ We permit our government officials to use tax money for war and the weapons for war. **Response:**
- ❖ We close our ears to commercial and sex trafficking. **Response:**
- ❖ We refuse asylum to refugees, which is against international law. **Response:**
- ❖ We continue to allow abortions and use of the death penalty. **Response:**
- ❖ We harbor judgmental thoughts, use violent language. **Response:**
- ❖ We have allowed our government to break treaties, which would have promoted peace. **Response:**
- ❖ In a land of plenty, we allow people to go homeless, hungry, or without healthcare. **Response:**
- ❖ We allow the government to remove hard-working members of our society. **Response:**
- ❖ We have allowed the sin of racism to fester. **Response:**
- ❖ We permit a dysfunctional prison system. **Response:**

(Feel free to add additional petitions.)

Say or Sing: *“Lord, have Mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord have mercy.”*

Related Readings:

Excerpt from Pope Benedict’s ‘The Christian Family’ # 240, 2007

(T)he sacrifice of Christ is a mystery of liberation that constantly and consistently challenges us. I therefore urge all the faithful to be true promoters of peace and justice. All who partake of the Eucharist must commit themselves to peacemaking in our world scarred by violence and war.

Excerpt from To Know as We Are Known, by Parker Palmer

Our seeing shapes our being ... so we open the eye of the heart and see another sight: a world warmed and transformed by the power of love, a vision of community beyond the mind’s capacity to see.

A Litany of Thanksgiving: Nonviolence Works! Response: Thank you, God!

- ❖ For Mahatma Gandhi, who led the nonviolence campaign for India’s independence. **Response:**
- ❖ For the black and white suffragettes who struggled nonviolently, suffered, and persevered to achieve voting rights for women. **Response:**
- ❖ For Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, John Lewis, Margaret Ellen Traxler, SSND and all who worked for civil rights through peaceful means. **Response:**

- ❖ For the Solidarity Struggles that ended the Polish Communist Regime. **Response:**
- ❖ For the People Power Revolution which, in 1986, overthrew the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines without an armed conflict. **Response:**
- ❖ For the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who called international attention to the plight of the desaparecidos (“disappeared persons”) in Argentina during the Dirty War. **Response:**
- ❖ For Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, who through nonviolent methods, founded the United Farm Workers, achieving fairer wages and better working conditions for farm laborers. **Response:**
- ❖ For all those who marched in peaceful protest for voting rights, civil rights, and fair housing reforms in the past, and for all those who do so today for police reform, care for our planet, black lives, and equity for all. **Response:**

Add your own additional prayers of thanksgiving.

Closing Hymn: *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Invitation to Action

Expressions of Peace

Consider creating a poem, photograph, prayer, or other work of creative expression that highlights our commitment to “promote peace-building through nonviolent policies, practices and strategies.” Then notify Tim in the CP Shalom Office (tdewane@ssndcp.org) so he can work with you on discerning the best way to share your artistic expression of peace with the province.

Practice

Commit to employing one or more of the following nonviolent practices:

- 1) *Nonviolent Communication* – Strive to eliminate [violent language](#) from my thoughts and speech
- 2) *Civil Dialogue* – Employ compassionate listening in personal conversations, support local groups that promote community dialogue and trainings
- 3) *Advocacy* – Use [SSND’s Voter Voice Tool](#) and other means to encourage public officials support for peace-building and nonviolent policies, practices, and strategies.
- 4) *Public Statements* – Pen letters to the editor and/or sign-on to public statements that promote peace-building and nonviolent strategies.
- 5) *Nonviolent Protests, Marches, or Boycotts* – Participate in, pray for, or otherwise support these efforts.
- 6) *Prayer Promotion* – Organize opportunities and/or share resources that promote prayers in support of nonviolent, peace-building efforts.
- 7) *Other Ways* – Review and commit to employing one or more of these [64 Ways to Nonviolence](#).



➤ *Prepared by the Shalom Peace and Nonviolence Committee*