

Pilgrimage for Peace



Remembrance Service

Sunday, April 8, 2018

“Walking together as active peacemakers”

and

“Remembering those who have died at the hand of violence, their loved ones, those who commit violence, those who live in fear, and those who work for peace.”

Music by Fire and Brimstone Duo

Featuring Lori and Phil Norris

Invocation

The Reverend Ed Wills
St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Prayer of St. Francis

Read by Catholic Youth
Pax Christi of Little Rock

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Youth Activism and the Pursuit of Peace

Read by Aislinn Camden, Waleed Masood, Nimesh Wijewardane,
Emily Van Ecko, and Sahar Tariq
Multi-Faith Youth Group

In the chaos that follows atrocity and violence, peace and activism are the beams of light that lead us toward healing and growth. The role of young people in that activism is vital. Some people may believe that we are too young to have anything meaningful to offer, however, our roles cannot be overlooked or belittled. We stand here today as young activists who wish to work alongside you in the pursuit of a more connected and peaceful world. We'd like to take a moment today to pay homage to some of the past movements led by heroic young activists. These movements changed the perspectives, conversations, and lives of our world.

The Greensboro Sit-ins, 1960. Started by four teenagers, this event thrust the non-violent sit-in movement into the public eye. Although not the first sit-in of the Civil Rights Movement, this action was instrumental not only in desegregation, but also in the formation of the Student Executive Committee for Justice, which launched more non-violent youth-led protests and movements. This event, widely regarded as the

most important of the sit-ins, shows how much power young activists hold, and how they wield it with courage and dignity.

The Children's Crusade, Birmingham, Alabama, 1963. This was part of a carefully crafted plan in the Civil Rights Movement, designed to bring an end to segregation in one of the most discriminatory places in the country. Thousands of child volunteers flooded the streets in peace groups, singing protest songs and heading for the mayor. They were met with violence and aggression from white supremacists and police. Nevertheless, they pressed on, despite the risks of brutality, terrorist tactics from the community, arrest, and expulsion from school. These young activists, some as young as 7 and 8, completed their goal, forcing their government to desegregate.

The Soweto Uprising, 1970s-1980s. Ignited by public school students in Soweto, South Africa, several thousand young activists began a peaceful march in protest of the unfair treatment they were receiving under Apartheid. Their non-violent movement was met with deadly levels of police brutality. The bravery of the young people in Soweto who refused to back down created waves that rocked the world. Their heroism made it impossible for the world to ignore the injustice of Apartheid any longer.

Velvet Revolution, 1989. Inspired by the fall of the Berlin Wall just eight days before, 500,000 Czechoslovakians – beginning with students – flooded the streets of Prague in order to overthrow their Communist government. They remained stubbornly peaceful in the face of riot officers. They succeeded in their goal in only a month, and the entirety of the movement was bloodless. They embodied the power of peace over violence and proved the strength of youth activism.

Teenage Graffiti Artists, the spark that started the Syrian Revolution, 2011. A group of teenagers and children spray painted on a wall a word that has led to much violence: Democracy. These kids are arrested for this act and violence erupts throughout Daara, Syria. Soon, protests and violence intensify, and Assad is met with severe economic sanctions. The uprising in 2011 in Syria shows the courage and bravery from this group of young people and shows that young activists can bring change throughout the country.

March for Our Lives, 2018. The event that's the freshest and most painful on all our minds is the Parkland school shooting. What has blossomed out of it, however, is a movement led primarily by high school students who are handling this tragedy with grace and with progressive, proactive, and peaceful minds. They stand bravely as we speak in the name of peace and safety for our schools. We are honored and inspired to share this moment in time with them, and we hope that together we can see this movement into fruition.

We are inspired by those that have come before us and we hope to possess even a fraction of the resilience, integrity, and peacefulness that they maintained in the face of adversity. We are inspired by the youth activists of today who continue to pursue

peace and progress with optimistic hearts even when told that change is impossible. They make us believe that change is inevitable. We are inspired by all of you who work tirelessly for peace and who have come here today. Thank you for sharing this movement with us.

**Remembering those in our community who have died
in the past year at the hand of violence...**

Names read by Alicia Allison
Aaron Crawford Anti-Violence Organization

Nigel Jackson, Shirley Jackson, Zayana Coakley, Tamela Jones, Bavino Choxon, Richard Robinson, Amanda Murillo, Tanisha Roby, Kendrick Scales, Anna Williamson, Naomi Estrada, William David Kendrick, Sharman Bowie, Billy Thornton, Samuel Gilmore, Loren Robinson, unidentified 14-year-old, Steven McPherson, Damian Mitchell, Carlo Marigliano, Evilio Castro-Alvarez.

Let us remember.... *Silence.*

Buddhist Scripture

Read by Jakob Mueller
Ecumenical Buddhist Society

Better than a thousand meaningless statements
Is one meaningful word,
Which, having been heard,
Brings peace.

Better than a thousand meaningless verses
Is one meaningful line of verse
Which, having been heard,
Brings peace.

Better than reciting a hundred meaningless verses
Is one line of Dharma
Which, having been heard,
Brings peace.

Better than one hundred years lived
Without seeing the ultimate Dharma
Is one day lived
Seeing the Ultimate Dharma.

The Dhammapada, translated by Gil Fronsdal

Baha'i Prayer

Read by Amelia Diaz

The Spiritual Assemblies of the Baha'is of Little Rock and North Little Rock

O Thou kind Lord! Thou hast created all humanity from the same stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are all Thy servants, and all mankind are sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle; all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, dost shelter all, conferrest life upon all. Thou hast endowed each and all with talents and faculties, and all are submerged in the Ocean of Thy Mercy.

O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.

O God! Establish the Most Great Peace.

Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together.

O Thou kind Father, God! Gladden our hearts through the fragrance of Thy love. Brighten our eyes through the Light of Thy Guidance. Delight our ears with the melody of Thy Word, and shelter us all in the Stronghold of Thy Providence.

Thou art the Mighty and Powerful, Thou art the Forgiving and Thou art the One Who overlooketh the shortcomings of all mankind.

'Abdu'l-Baha, Compilations, Baha'i Prayers, p. 10

"Be"

Read by Isabella Ifrah, Brock Jacobs, Larry Jacobs, and Sydney Gastman
Little Rock Federation of Temple Youth and Congregation B'nai Israel

Be understanding to your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be foolish enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share our joys.
Be willing to share the sorrows of others.
Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.
Be a follower when you are shrouded by the mists of uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.
Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.
Be sure of your final destination in case you are going the wrong way.

Be loving to those who love you.
Be loving to those who do not love you, and they may change.
Above all, be yourself.

Anonymous

**Remembering those in our community who have died
in the past year at the hand of violence...**

Names read by Sahar Tariq
Multi-Faith Youth Group

Tina Moody, Danny Lewis, Tyrone Tatum, Allen Sims, Vincent James, Antwon Bryant,
Michael Davis, Robert Maugan, unidentified 4-year-old girl, unidentified 5-year-old
boy, Laramie Cline, Ma Eva Luz Perez, Mark Crofts, Dwight Johnson, James Ward,
James Hartsfield, Kordell Johnson, Loren Poole, Larry Beardfield, Christon Anderson,
Harold Scott, Clyde Hatchett.

Let us remember.... *Silence.*

Quaker Reading

Read by Aster Evans
The Religious Society of Friends

Conflict happens, and will continue to happen, even in the most peaceful of worlds....
We'll each handle conflict differently and find healing and reconciliation by different
paths. I want nonetheless to offer three keys, three skills, or qualities which I've found
helpful from my own experience.

The first skill is naming: being clear and honest about the problem as I see it, stating
what I see and how I feel about it....

The second skill is the skill of listening: listening not just to the words, but to the
feelings and needs behind the words....

The third skill is the skill of letting go: I don't mean that in the sense of giving up, lying
down, and inviting people to walk all over us, but acknowledging the possibility that

there may be other solutions to this conflict than the ones we've thought of yet; letting the imagination in – making room for the Spirit....

If we are to do any of these things well – naming, listening, letting go – we need to have learned to trust that of God in ourselves and that of God in those trapped on all sides of the conflict with us. And to do that well, I find I need to be centered, rooted, and practiced in waiting on God. That rootedness is both a gift and a discipline, something we can cultivate and build on by acknowledging it every day.

*Mary Lou Leavitt, 1986, Quaker Faith and Practice (5th ed.)
The book of Christian discipline of the
Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain*

Islamic Prayers

Read by Mahreen Arshad
Madina Institute and Mosque

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, “The disease of the nations before you is creeping towards you: Envy and Hatred, it severs relations. By the One in Whose Hands is my soul; You will not enter Paradise until you believe and you will not believe until you love each other. Shall I tell you about what will strengthen that for you? Spread peace among each other.”

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also said, “God informed Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) that among all of God’s servants, the dearest to God is the one who is strong enough to take revenge and yet forgives.”

“O mankind! We created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know and honor each other, not that you should despise one another. Indeed, the most honorable of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you.”

Quran 49:13

Peaceful Reflections and Prayers

Read by Julia and Marcus Garcia
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. “Peace, peace,” they say when there is no peace.

Jeremiah, 6:14

Dear God, please help us not fall into the old trap of thinking that if we ignore gun violence in our community and country it will go away.

Grant that one day we will see your peace fall on our world, where neither children in school, or people of color in their backyards, fear that a gunshot will end their lives.

Help the mothers and fathers of children killed by gun violence. Help all families with loved ones killed and injured by this violence.

Help all the children who live with violence in their home.

Help guide all the people in positions of power, to work together, to bring peace to our world, through action. Give them wisdom and compassion in all their efforts.

Help guide all the people here today to be active helpers in bringing peace to our world. Give us restless spirits until we do.

God, you hear our thoughts.

Hear our prayers.

**Remembering those in our community who have died
in the past year at the hand of violence...**

Names read by Emily Smith
Clinton School of Public Service

Stefany Teague, Mariah Cunningham, Alayah Fisher, Elijah Fisher, Arlin Wayne Nugent, Charles Smith Jr., Antwan Anderson, Stanley Kaiser, April Harris, Allen Ray McGuire, Katrina Hampton, Robert Earl Hunter, Zechariah Jones, Chris Arnold, Lester Perry, Jim Gilot, Chastity Cannady, Devon Howard, James Price, Denise Hildreth, Damarian Williams, Gregory Mayo, Tartinisha Rainey, Charles Harris, Nathan Sullivan, Cierria Onukwebe.

Let us remember.... *Silence.*

Universal Prayer

Lead by Nimesh Wijewardane
Multi-Faith Youth Group, ITSSM Interfaith Center

(Read by all in attendance)

We are standing in your presence to pray for peace and harmony.

We pray for a day when your love envelops the earth.

A day when spirits that unite us are stronger than the forces that divide us.

A day when all people are one no matter what color, race, or religion.

Please grant us compassion to care for all creations; love to keep us strong; and acceptance to reduce hatred.

Please guide our hearts through understanding, so we may coexist in harmony, and universal peace may prevail the earth.

Amen!

*Written by the founding members of the first interfaith youth group to be read by
people of all faiths and no faith alike.*

Never Give Up

Read by Caroline Stevenson
Pilgrimage for Peace

Never give up
No matter what is going on
Never give up
Develop the heart
Too much energy in your country
Is spent developing the mind
Instead of the heart
Be Compassionate
Not just to your friends
But to everyone
Be compassionate
Work for peace
In your heart and in the world
Work for peace
In your heart and in the world
Work for peace
And I say again
Never give up
No matter what is happening
No matter what is going on around you
Never give up.

*Dalai Lama
Journal of the Tibetan Society of the UK
Winter 1999/2000*

Sponsors and Contributors

Aaron Crawford Anti-Violence
Organization (Team Tank)
Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death
Penalty
Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice
(ACPJ)
Arkansas Community Organizations (ACO)
Arkansas Culture and Dialogue Center
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind
Arkansas Peace Week 2018
Christ Episcopal Church
Clinton School Center on Philanthropy
Clinton School of Public Service
Congregation B'nai Israel
Compassion Works for All
Daughters of Abraham Interfaith Book
Group
Ecumenical Buddhist Society
El Zocalo Immigrant Resource Center
Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas
Episcopal Peace Fellowship of Arkansas
Faith Voices of Arkansas
Friends of Women's Federation for World
Peace
Interfaith Arkansas
Interfaith Power and Light (IPL)

Just Communities of Arkansas (JCA)
Little Rock Organizing Committee (LROC)
Madina Institute, Inc.
Magdalene Coming Home
Natural State Horticare
Pace e Bene/Campaign Nonviolence
Pax Christi of Little Rock
Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Second Presbyterian Church
St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, Maumelle
San Damiano Ecumenical Catholic Church
Spiritual Assembly of Baha'i, Little Rock
Spiritual Assembly of Baha'i, North Little
Rock
The Syrian Emergency Task Force/
The Wisdom House
Unitarian Universalist Church, Little Rock
United Church of Peace
Universal Peace Federation, USA
Women's Action for New Directions
(WAND)

The Beacon of Peace and Hope
Designed by Jerry Currence
Taggart Foster Currence Gray Architects
The Symbolic Design

The highest light represents PEACE and the lower, HOPE. PEACE is elevated because it is tangible and achievable. It represents one of the highest and yet most elusive goals in today's violent world. The HOPE light is lowered and reverent. It is below the surface. It is not tangible. It is personal and represents individual dreams.

The main structure resembles heavy timbers lashed together. These represent strength and stability. These structures are designed to be strong enough to hold massive ships in the place against moving currents, tidal forces and the strong winds that would sweep them away. It is symbolic of the steadfastness required to secure the ideas of Peace and Hope in a world where both are in constant peril.

PEACE and HOPE are held by a single element, not separated by supports, but by a single elegant curve. This curved armature represents the connections between these two ideas. It symbolizes the common thread that binds PEACE to HOPE and HOPE to PEACE.

We desire that this sculpture will inspire those who view it to think of a world where PEACE and HOPE survive hand in hand. It is our goal that the Beacon will inspire people to find ways to advance the ideals of PEACE and HOPE and to share them with their descendants. Without the young there is no one to carry on. Without PEACE and HOPE, there is no reason to.

*Make peace is the soldier's cry
To the angry world outside.*

*The shells that "purge" the cities and villages
Will not silence their voices.*

*No blame is to be placed. No shame is to be lived.
Please no more screams.*

By Frederick "Sandy" Phillips
One of 270 victims of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103
Over Lockerbie, Scotland
December 21, 1988

www.pilgrimageforpeace.com

BEACON OF PEACE AND HOPE

A gift to the people of Arkansas.
Dedicated to all who aspire to live in a world
of peace and justice and who are
actively working to accomplish that goal.

With thanks to all who
contributed to make this memorial possible.

Arkansas Women's Action for New Directions
City of North Little Rock