



4. Peace

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. We begin this academic year with a reminder that it's good to be grateful. Research reveals the importance of gratitude even in the midst of adversity: that being aware of each day's 'blessings' can counteract anxiety, and so this term, we want to encourage schools to continue to do this through their collective worship. We provide a script with reflective ideas for classroom use and PowerPoint; both have additional content that you may wish to spread across the week and use in classrooms to ensure that you are meeting the requirement for daily collective worship and to support the spiritual flourishing of your whole school community.

You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **This collective worship links to the marking of International Peace Day 2026, which takes place (as it does every year!) on September 21st. Peace is a universal aim, regardless of religion, belief, or race – and we take time to recall how Jesus spoke of peace, as well as others who followed his example in striving for peace in their time. Islam is based on the root word in Arabic for 'peace'; and the Hebrew word for peace, 'Shalom', incorporates a much bigger sense of a person's complete well-being and a desire to work peace into the lives of the wider community. To understand more, watch this short video [here](#). We have tried to include some ideas that take your children away from a screen, so do use these as alternatives to the PPT.**



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference how your school's vision & values create a **peaceful community**.

How might this link with the Guildford Diocese spirituality offer?



This icons in this section show how the collective worship theme links with the elements of **self, others, beauty** and/or **beyond**

Where we each find peace – within and outside of ourselves

How important peace is for good relationships with others – and across the world

The value of peace in a troubled world; how peace is part of God's character – and for some, his name

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in bold show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. To help any children with visual timetabling, we include an icon for each different part of this collective worship in the top right corner of each slide.
- Find out more about International Peace Day, generally – and specifically this year here: <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/> and on the UN website: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>
- There is an image to use in the collective worship within children to help them to tell the story from the pictures – or if you want to go screen-free, set it as a challenge for children to find their own solution to: using a PE hoop works quite well (with careful supervision & instructions!), with two children on opposite sides, each trying to reach a target just out of their reach.
- The image that we use in the script this week can be accessed [here](#) if you want to use it again in your classrooms. In an age-appropriate way, you could tell, or re-enact this story, outside if you like! You could also ask children to tell the story to a friend, using the pictures to help them. It's been created by the Quaker community, (now called Society of Friends), who have been actively involved in peace-keeping and promoting activities – and have some great resources listed below, along with lots more extra resources this week to help you to think about peace in your class or school. Just scroll down!!

Gathering:

Slide 1: Welcome stilling exercise – cloud formations

Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.

I wonder if you've ever just lain on the grass to watch the clouds – and maybe tried to spot different shapes?!....

As you sit quietly here, watch these clouds.....and bring your mind into a peaceful place [PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to watch....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think about yourself and what you bring into this time today.....and think about how peace has come upon us.... [PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we are thinking about peace, and we will**talk about peace together.....TWICE!.....tell each other a story..... and think think together about what it might mean for our school community.**

But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....



- **Slides 2/3:** Teach this new greeting to your school community – there are two slightly different versions from the point of view of the leader; choose which best fits your school's context. One uses words adapted from [Psalm 118:24](#)
 - **Leader:** This is a day that God has made!
 - **ALL:** We will rejoice* and be glad* in it!
- OR:
- **Leader:** Today is a brand new day.....
 - **ALL:** May we be a blessing to each other!

*There are different BSL signs for rejoicing and joy/gladness. View them here: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/rejoice>
 Blessing: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/blessing> (1st video)

Engaging:

- **Slide 4:** This term, we are thinking about our blessings – all the good things in our lives.
- **Slide 5:** Today [*or September 21st*] is a special day across the world, as people think about the blessing of Peace – and how to make more of it! Lots of people across the world are focused on how to do this in our troubled world through the work of an organisation called the United Nations – and International Peace Day is a way of helping us all to play our part. This year's theme is 'Invest in Peace – for everyone, everywhere, every day' – and so today, we will be thinking and talking about peace. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, says this: **Peace is not just made at conference tables, but in classrooms, neighbourhoods, and everywhere people meet with open minds and open hearts. Together, day by day, we can build a more just world, with compassion, equality and dignity for all.**
- **Slide 6:** People have many different ideas about what peace is. Let's share our own ideas together now... [*invite children to contribute their ideas about what peace means for them*]
- **Slide 7:** We sometimes talk about 'peace and quiet', where's there's not a lot of noise....We live in a very noisy world! Or maybe a **peaceful place**....where you can get that peace and quiet, or a place that helps you to feel peaceful inside! Or perhaps you thought of some peaceful activities, such as **doing a puzzle**, or **reading a book**....or maybe you talked about bringing peace when **someone's had an argument**.... There are many different meanings for the idea of peace – and there are places in our world today that are far from peaceful, places that we might want to pray for or think about later on.
- **Slide 8:** Our story today is a little bit different from usual, because it's a story in a picture. I wonder if you can tell the story of what's happening here?.... [*leave some space for children to think, then allow them to share their versions – or they could tell a partner. The arrows move to help focus on each part of the story. Afterwards, talk about how co-operating / working together brought peace in this situation for the mules.*] The mules had to work hard to find a solution – and it could only be achieved together. This is a picture of peace for us today.
- **Slide 9:** Peace is important in different religions as well. For people who are Muslims, the very name that they give to their religion – Islam – comes from the Arabic word for peace **Salaam**, and is also one of God – Allah's – beautiful names: **As-Salam**, bringer of peace. You'll also hear it when they greet one another with this peaceful greeting – **As-Salamu-Alaikum, Peace be upon you!**, which in **Arabic** looks like this.... [*it's read from R-L*]
- **Slide 10:** This is the Hebrew word for peace – 'Shalom' (*it also reads from right to left*) It's one of the most beautiful words in the Bible and refers to a sense of wholeness – a completeness – of wellbeing. It's not just the *absence* of conflict, but the *presence* of something better – this sense of complete wellbeing. It is this kind of peace that many people throughout history have worked hard to bring; a peace that Christians believe Jesus brings, making right all wrongs, putting things right. Jesus talked about people who followed him needing to be 'peace-makers' and it's an idea that the very first Christians took very seriously – to act peacefully wherever and whenever they could. St Paul, who wrote a lot of letters in the New Testament part of the Bible, wrote these words to encourage the Church: **'Do your best to live in peace with everyone.'**
- **Slide 11:** **Peace-making** is an active word, a doing word – Jesus wanted his followers to be **peacemakers**, to copy him, working for peace, putting things right, bringing wholeness, 'shalom' wherever they went. This sounds like an enormous job, and although it's often hard work, it's not as difficult as it might seem. Here are 2 examples.... [*Talk about the two pictures on the slide – ask children to try to imagine what might have happened just before each one. They could talk together first.*] Peace starts in the small things that we do for others.....



Slide 12: Responding (and words for worship)

Let's be still and quiet together now....



...We've been thinking today about the blessing of peace – whatever that word means for each of us....

....and on this day especially, on the importance of us trying to **make peace** wherever we go....

Slide 13:Mother Teresa was a follower of Jesus who lived her life quite simply, bringing peace wherever *she* went: she had these two simple things to say about peace....*[you might want to explore these words again later in the week]*

Peace begins with a smile*.

What can you do to promote world peace? Go home & love your family*.

I wonder how these ideas might help us today, or tomorrow, or this week, to be a peace-maker?...

I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, as I ask God to help us to put some of these ideas into practice, or you might also want to use the time to think about parts of the world where we would want to see peace today.

The words come from a very famous prayer about peace. Make the prayer your own if you'd like to...or if you'd prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts...

Slide 14: God of peace

May we bring your peace to other people

Where people have given up, may we bring hope

Where peoples' lives feel dark, may we bring light

And where there's sadness, may we bring joy.

(based on St. Francis' Prayer, 'Make me a channel of your peace')

Slide 15: Amen

Songs to sing:

[Peace be in our waking](#) (BBC) or [Respect](#) (NBD) or [Everyone Matters](#) (NBD)

A song with join-in actions: *I've got peace like a river*

The actions are very simple, but fast: hope you can keep up!! Talk about how peace, love and joy are connected with each other. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=d6085sLXCMs&feature=emb_logo

Slide 16: Sending

Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead....

All: May we make peace, 'Shalom', wherever we go.



Slide 17: Reflection areas

Make a Peace Garden in your reflective area. 'Plant' flowers made on lolly sticks, with children's thoughts & ideas relating to 'making peace' written on them. You can see an example [here](#).

Think: How might we 'make peace'?

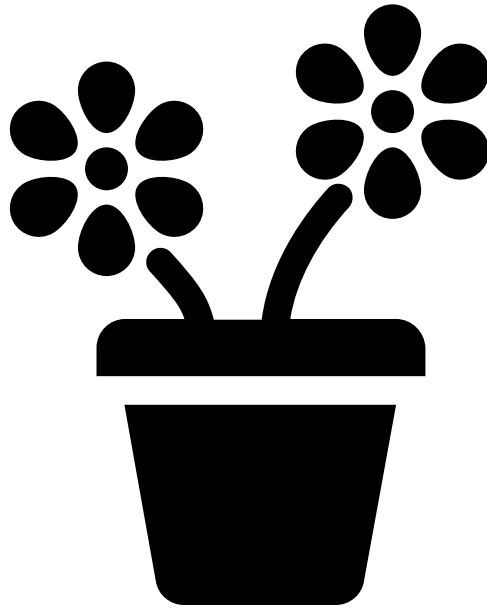
Do: Write or draw your thought on a lolly stick and make it into a flower for our Peace Garden.

Talk: How can we help one another and work together to make peace?

Ideas to build spirituality, using your classroom reflection areas:

- Put some zips into your reflective area as an alternative idea to the Peace Garden: as children pull the zip up, challenge them to think of one thing that they could do to bring peace to someone else.
- Be a peace-maker by smiling at someone today! You might want to try an experiment to see who Mother Teresa's idea works on – or how many times you could make it work in a day.
- Create a Peace Senses challenge: 'Peace looks / sounds / tastes / smells / feels like.....' Turn these statements into poetry or a set of images to use in collective worship later in the week.
- Go outside and use natural resources to create an image together to promote peace.
- There are several versions of the song 'Let there be peace', which includes the words 'Let it begin with me' – here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPH4LRASWbo&list=PLF0F1E56FCE059336&index=1> although a bit longer than others, this version has some nice images and inspirational quotes – you might like to talk about some of them, and what images children would choose to accompany the song.
- Use the *Prayer Spaces in Schools* resources about peace-making [here](#). There is also a special focus on Peace as part of their global prayer week from 6th-13th September: access resources here: <https://prayerspacesinschools.org/resources/global-week-of-prayer-every-language-every-nation-peace/>
- Quakers Peace Education has more ideas than you'll ever need for exploring peace & conflict with children. Download a free teaching pack for Peace Week here: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/peace-week-resources> and more general Peace Education here: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/teaching-resources-2>





Peace Garden

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'



How might we 'make peace'?



Write or draw your thought on a lolly stick and make it into a flower for our Peace Garden.



How can we help one another and work together to make peace?

