

75th Anniversary of Hiroshima Day August 6th 2020

Peace Sunday is held each year on the Sunday closest to August 6th. This year it falls on August 9th. This is a significant year, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bomb attacks that devastated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

You are encouraged to use these prayers and resources in worship on August 9th to remember the victims and to end all forms of weapons of mass destruction.

A time for remembrance and challenge.

At 8:15 in the morning of August 6, 1945 an atomic bomb was dropped from a USA B-29 bomber on Hiroshima, Japan. More than seventy thousand people died instantly or within hours. Few were soldiers. The final death tolls are unknown, ranging between 140,000 to 250,000.

Prayer Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki

(Source: Pax Christi UK, paxchristi.org.uk)

God our creator and sustainer, we gather to pray in the midst of a broken people who remember the darkness and the shadow of death and destruction caused by nuclear weapons.

We know that we deal falsely with the world and with ourselves, healing wounds too lightly by saying “peace, peace” when there is no peace.

Let there be sown in us anew the unity, the light and the peace which passes all understanding. Be with us today and keep our minds and hearts in you and in your peace.

We remember the 300,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki who died as a result of the atomic bombs. May they rest in peace.

We remember those who died in the war with Japan, especially those who suffered and died in the prisoner of war camps.

We remember those who gave their lives to help those suffering after the bomb and who died of radiation sickness. May their faithful and loving witness inspire us to compassion.

We remember the people of the Middle East, where each day brings news of more violence. We pray that nonviolent solutions may be found to heal wounds and bring justice and lasting peace to them.

We remember those who were able to forgive the suffering inflicted on them by their enemies in war. We pray for the same greatness of heart.

We will remember the peacemaker visionaries who have come before us, and we will give thanks for their witness and their commitment to life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Amen.



Poem – Transfigured and Transfixed

(Father Rob Esdaile - Source: Pax Christi UK, paxchristi.org.uk)

Hiroshima Day is August 6th. In the Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions, August 6 is also the Feast of the Transfiguration. A catholic priest has written the following poem in the light of this juxtaposition:

Noon in Galilee, dawn by the Japanese sea.
The Spirit hovers silently, while the Enola Gay drones away.
Four men on a mountain top; 350,000 down in the valley.
The Son of Man and a bomb christened "Little Boy."
Silently the cloud descends; just as silently a parachute unfurls.
Four men see nothing but Jesus, while 75,000 are never seen again.
Whiter than any new bleached cloth the face of Christ,
Brighter than a thousand suns the flash.
"This is my beloved Son, listen to him."
This is the nuclear age, be very afraid.
And the clouds weep their atomic rain.
Christ transfigured and the world transfixed,
The dawning of the light of Christ,
The beginning of the nuclear winter.



Here's a link to another prayer for Hiroshima Day, older but still applicable and usable

<http://smoth.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CS-prayer-hiroshima.pdf>

Video Clip

You might like to use this short video tribute to the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (3 mins): <https://vimeo.com/135355477>

Visit the **Hiroshima For Peace website** for more resources, <https://hiroshimaforpeace.com/en/>

World Council of Churches website news: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-to-observe-75th-anniversary-of-the-nuclear-attacks-on-hiroshima-and-nagasaki>

World Council of Churches blogpost, <https://blog.oikoumene.org/posts/75th-anniversary-of-the-nuclear-attacks-on-hiroshima-and-nagasaki-has-your-country-ratified-the-un-treaty>