

# Gathering for Peace

## Words of the Day

I am “being peace” when I . . . .

## Chalice Lighting

The Tao doesn't take sides;  
it gives birth to both good and evil.  
The Master doesn't take sides;  
she welcomes both saints and sinners.

The Tao is like a bellows:  
it is empty yet infinitely capable.  
The more you use it, the more it produces;  
the more you talk of it, the less you understand.

Hold on to the center.  
*Lao-tzu, Tao Te Ching, Translation by Stephen Mitchell*

## The Basket

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support

## Shared Readings

It is my conviction that there is no way to peace – peace is the way. *Thích Nhất Hạnh*

You cannot find peace by avoiding life. *Virginia Woolf*

Our dualistic minds see evil as black and white and that the only solution is to eliminate evil. Nonviolence, on the other hand, comes from an awareness that I am also the enemy and my response is part of the whole moral equation. *Richard Rohr*

Peace is the only battle worth waging. *Albert Camus*

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. *Mother Teresa*

Humanity is still far from that stage of maturity needed for the realizations of its aspiration, for the construction, that is, of a harmonious and peaceful society and the elimination of wars.  
*Maria Montessori*

True peace is not merely the absence of war, it is the presence of justice. *Jane Addams*

Imagine all the people living life in peace.

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one.

*John Lennon, Imagine*

If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner. *Nelson Mandela*

The first step in the direction of a world rule of law is the recognition that peace no longer is an unobtainable ideal but a necessary condition of continued human existence. *Margaret Mead*

## **Deep Sharing/Deep Listening**

**Round 1:** Share your reflections on peace and the preparation materials.

**Round 2:** Share additional thoughts or reflect on what others have shared.

## **Closing Circle**

### **Extinguishing the Chalice**

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again.

## **Song/Chime Announcements**

### **The Covenant**

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share with the facilitator the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the "I-message."