



January : Messy Peace

Original session by Hannah Tarring

“I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world.”

Activities Try these activities and see if you can guess what might happen in our story today.

Peace Cranes - Visit www.origami-instructions.com/origami-crane.html to learn to fold a simple crane from a square of thin paper.

In Japan, children write their prayers and hopes for peace on paper cranes they have made. This is the story behind this tradition: Sadako was a young Japanese girl, badly affected by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II. She was taken to hospital for treatment. The nurses encouraged her and the other children to accept the medicines by folding for them origami figures out of small square medicine wrappers. Sadako's favorite was the crane. An old Japanese legend stated that anyone who faithfully folded 1,000 cranes would have her wish fulfilled. Sadako began folding cranes and her wish was, of course, that she would recover. However, when she sensed that she was not going to get better from the effects of the radiation, she changed her wish and prayed instead for peace between the countries of the world. With every crane that she folded, she whispered, 'I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world.' She had folded 664 cranes when sadly she died. The children of Japan learned of Sadako's wish and they too began folding cranes. Every year on Hiroshima Day (6 August), you can see thousands of paper cranes suspended from the tower in Hiroshima Peace Park.

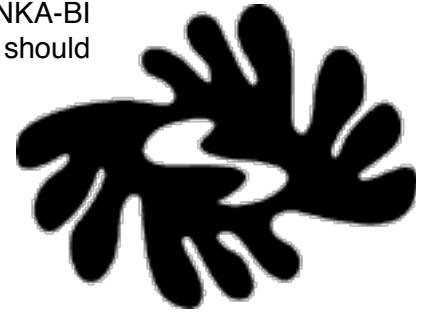


Talk about why you think it is so hard for people in the world to be at peace with one another..

An Oil and Water Experiment - You will need: cooking oil; water; food coloring; dish soap; plastic bottle
Try mixing oil and water. Pour 2 tablespoons of oil into a bottle. Fill it up about half full of water. Add a drop or two of food coloring. Put the lid on tightly and shake until you think it's well mixed. Let it settle. What happens? It just separates again into oil and water! What happens if you add a few drops of dish soap? The dish soap reacts with both oil and water to form an emulsion – it joins them together (very useful when you're washing your hands with soap & water to get rid of dirt). Opposites can be brought together if something else is added that reacts with both.

Talk about how, when people quickly take sides and refuse to come together to solve their differences, Christians are called, like Jesus, to be peacemakers who break down those differences and bring people together again. How easy do you find it to be a peacemaker?

No One Should Bite Each Other! - Draw the outline of the Adinkra symbol BI-NKA-BI for peace and harmony (right) on your paper, as large as you can. It means 'no one should bite each other'. Fill it with either different patterns or different words. You might find a poem or prayer about peace to write into the shape. Look up Maya Angelou, 'The rock cries out to us today' or use the following prayer shared with us by Fran O'Connell. Or you could fill it with patterns of doves and other symbols of peace from your own culture.



Talk about the people you know who are good at bringing peace, at helping stop arguments, at helping people make friends again. How do they do it?

Prayer For Peace

O God, I pray today for those who share my faith, as well as those who hold other beliefs, that we may join in love and understanding to promote peace between all people ... regardless of race, creed, color, or political affiliation. May we unite in rejecting hatred and fear everywhere. Please let there be peace on Earth and our nation ... and let it begin with all of us who pray together today. Thank You, God! ~Amen

Celebration Visit Ghent United Methodist Church on YouTube and follow along with Pastor Melody's Celebration service! Here are some things that you can do at home to follow up with our Celebration Time regarding peace:

Paul wrote in a letter to the Christians in Corinth: 'God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace' (2 Corinthians 5:19, CEV).

Who can learn this verse by heart?

As a family, on a piece of paper, draw or write people, groups, countries or ideologies on one side of the paper, with the people, group, country or ideology that is in most conflict with them on the other side. When you have drawn or written enough, ask someone to draw a cross with the cross-arm stretching out from the list on one side of the paper to the list on the other.

Read the verse from 2 Corinthians 5:19 (above) again and talk about what it might mean in the different situations you've listed. Ask everyone to think of one way you can 'share his message about peace' this week.

There is a recognized international prayer for peace. It is written out below with some suggested simple actions to accompany the words. These should help everyone to remember it.

Lead me...

from death to life (*hands crossed over body and then hands raised above the head*)...

from falsehood to truth (*one hand close to the mouth, suggesting a malicious whisper, and then both hands with thumbs up next to the mouth suggesting the truth*)...

from despair to hope (*one hand on the forehead in despair and then the same hand shading the eyes, looking out to the future in hope*)...

from fear to trust (*two hands by the mouth expressing terror and then both hands open in front of the body expressing trust*)...

from hate to love (*one hand raised as a fist and then two hands over the heart*)...

from war to peace. *(one hand shaped like a gun and then two hands linked by the thumbs, palms inward, creating a dove of peace.*

Let peace fill...

our heart *(the hands still as the dove of peace near to the heart)...*

our world *(hands as the dove of peace making a small circle away from the heart)...*

our universe. *(hands as a dove of peace making a much larger circle away from the body)*

Mealttime The earth sleeps in winter. It is a time of peace and renewal when we get cozy inside and rest before spring comes, bursting with new life. Use your microwave oven to make s'mores and enjoy the sour with your family as you pray for peace (and wish for snow!)



Send us a photo of you all doing Messy Church at home! You may share on social media & tag us with #messychurchghentumc or email your photo to photos@ghentumc.org

Keep up with all the Messy Church fun!
Visit ghentumc.org to join our Messy mailing list.

Worship With Us ONLINE

Sundays at 10 am • Facebook Live



Learn more at ghentumc.org • 531 Raleigh Ave., Norfolk, VA 23507 • 757/622-2843   

Messy Music

Words and music: One license #A-727358

“Jesu, Tawa Pano” (“Jesus, We Are Here”)
(Patrick Matsikenyiri)

Jesu, tawa pano;
Jesu, tawa pano;
Jesu, tawa pano;
tawa pano, muzita renyu.

Jesus, we are here;
Jesus, we are here;
Jesus, we are here;
we are here for you.

“Peace to You” (Graham Kendrick)

Peace to you
We bless you now in the name of the Lord

Peace to you
We bless you now in the name of the Prince of
Peace

Peace to you

“Peace is Flowing Like a River”
(Anonymous)

1 Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

2 Joy is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

3 Faith is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

4 Hope is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

5 Love is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

6 Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Allelu, alleluia.