

## Breaking barriers to peace

God of all,  
as we walk together,

Open our hearts  
To your tenderness.

Open our minds  
To your understanding.

Open our lives  
To your challenge.

We are one people, many nations,  
Building hope through steps for peace.

One world with many barriers,  
Breaking chains so we dance free.

One voice that shouts for justice  
Shatters hatred, calls for change.

One God, one world, one people,  
Turning tables, share the feast.

Amen

*Linda Jones/CAFOD*

## **Building for the future**

May the memory of wars strengthen our efforts for peace;

May the memory of those who died inspire our service to the living;

May the memory of past destruction move us to build for the future;

O God of Peace, O Companion of our souls,

O Builder of Love and Justice in this world.

Lord, we commit our time, our energy, our talents, our gifts,  
even our limitations, failures and very selves to the cause of  
justice, peace and human development.

We join our lives with those who support the struggle for life.

Amen

*Linda Jones/CAFOD*

## **Intercessions for peace**

### **Let us pray for peace in our world:**

We pray for all those who seek peace, reconciliation and fullness of life for all people. Grant them discernment, courage and determination to work for your peace, relying on your Spirit and power. We pray for ourselves that your peace may become more present in us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

### **Let us pray for justice in our world:**

We pray for all who seek justice for the victimised and marginalized in the world. Grant them the courage to fight injustice, prejudice and suspicion wherever it occurs. We pray for ourselves that we may act justly in our homes and at work.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

### **Let us pray for all those who suffer torture, have disappeared or are denied their human rights:**

We pray for all those who are held prisoner, tortured or suffer because they believe in the rights they and their communities have as human beings. We pray that through knowing you they may be comforted. We pray for those who oppress them, that through knowing you they may be changed. We pray for ourselves, that we may not forget them as it is hoped we will.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

### **Let us pray for people living in poverty:**

We pray for all those who are trapped by poverty and suffer illness, lack of education and lost opportunities for a full life as a result. By our support of CAFOD may we share their sufferings and contribute to the solving of their problems. We pray for ourselves, that we may always recognise that we are called to be trustworthy stewards of all we have both for ourselves and for our brothers and sisters.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

### **Let us pray for the hungry and the starving of the world:**

We pray for all those who are even now hungry and dying of starvation across the world. We pray for those who control their lives that they might know the misery they cause. We pray for ourselves that we might always share our daily bread as you have commanded us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

*Linda Jones/CAFOD*

**May your kingdom come**

**CAFOD**  
Just one world

May fear strike no longer,  
Let pain fade away,  
May earthly power be challenged,  
When it plunders the poor,  
And tramples on hope.

God of peace, may your kingdom come  
Help us put away the weapons of war,  
Help us destroy the tools of destruction,  
Let earthly power be challenged,  
When it plunders the poor,  
And tramples on hope.

God of peace, may your kingdom come.  
Teach us to follow the ways of justice,  
Teach us to walk the paths of truth,  
Let integrity challenge the power that plunders,  
When it tramples the poor  
And pours scorn on our hope.

God of peace, may your kingdom come.  
Bring peace sweet as honey,  
Bring peace like a shield,  
And may we be the challenge  
To earthly power that plunders  
And tramples on hope.  
God of peace, may your kingdom come.

*Linda Jones/CAFOD*

## **Peace is possible**

Jesus, friend and companion  
Help us to show  
Through the way we live,  
Through our actions and words  
That peace is possible

**Response: We pray to believe that peace is possible**

Give us the strength and courage  
To confront evil  
And to believe in love

**Response: We pray to believe that love is possible**

Show us how to fight injustice  
Without losing heart  
Show us how to live a full life  
Without becoming cynical or indifferent

**Response: We pray to believe that justice is possible**

Jesus, our friend  
We pray for hope  
And the faith to believe  
In a better world.

*Linda Jones/CAFOD*

## Reaching out in love

Jesus, friend and guide,  
Your example teaches us how to love.  
You are present in each moment  
Shared between mother and child,  
and in the caring look  
between friend and stranger.

Prince of Peace,  
You suffered at human hands  
Yet acted out of love for all humanity.  
The people of *(name of country in conflict)*  
Have known sorrow and hurt  
Yet reach out to one another in love.

Welcoming Christ,  
Help us respond to your call  
With generosity and warmth,  
Building your kingdom  
free from division  
for all peoples.

Amen.

*Linda Jones/CAFOD*