

September 2026

Peace and The Year of St Francis



IF WE HAVE NO PEACE,
IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE
FORGOTTEN THAT WE
BELONG TO EACH OTHER.
- ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA -

Peace arises from our recognition that we are utterly and entirely dependent on each other, on all of creation, on God.

St Francis emphasised that to be fully human is to live by being what God created us to be: peacemakers, reconcilers, lovers. When we are selfish, divisive and polarising we threaten our sacred bond. We are not being fully human. We are getting in the way of peace.

This year marks the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's composition of the "Canticle of the Creatures".

More than about seeing the visual beauty of creation, it is about recognising the intrinsic beauty of God's community, our unity, our interdependence. It invites us to call each element of the created world, sentient or otherwise, our "sister", "brother" and "mother". It calls us to care for each other as family members. In so doing we become makers of peace.

More recently, Rabbi Irwin Keller, provides an extended mantra to focus us on being makers of peace.



Taking Sides

Today I am taking sides.

I am taking the side of Peace.

Peace, which will not abandon even when
its voice is drowned out by hurt and hatred,
bitterness and loss, cries of right and wrong.

I am taking the side of Peace...

I will hold peace in my arms, and share my body's breath,
lest Peace be added to the body count...

I will make a clearing in the overgrown thicket of cause and effect
so Peace can breathe for a minute and reach for the sky.

I will do what I must to save the life of Peace.

I will breathe through tears.

I will swallow pride.

I will bite my tongue.

I will offer love without testing
for deservedness ...

Don't ask me to take sides, unless it is the side of Peace.

Written by Rabbi Irwin Keller Oct 17, 2023

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

John 14:27

