

# Peaceful Remembrance of September 11, 2001

## Forty Days of Prayer for Children



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Thank you for walking this journey with children who have no remembrance of September 11, 2001, but who will see images and hear stories of the devastating loss of that day in the weeks leading up to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We may not be able to answer all of their questions, but we can share God's gift of prayer. These prayers, written by leaders in ministry with children, express hope, love, fear, confusion, and the power of God's grace. How wonderful to know that across the connection, children will be in prayer for everyone impacted by the events of September 11, 2001.

*Peace,*  
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### *Using this Resource*

This resource can be used in the congregation, and with families. Copy the resource to send home each week. Send out the link to parents. Make it part of your weekday ministries. Use it in Sunday school. It was created for use in a variety of settings.

### *Resources for Leaders*

Chapter 6 of ***Children and Prayer: A Shared Pilgrimage*** by Betty Shannon Cloyd explores the forms of prayer and how they are appropriate for children. Litany Prayers may be especially helpful during these 40 days. Consider using Psalm 145 and Psalm 148.

Chapter 6 of Carolyn Brown's book, ***Raising Children to Love Their Neighbors***, is filled with activities on how to love one another. One great suggestion is helping children write a praise psalm.

### *Books for Children and Families*

These 40 days are the perfect time to talk about peace. The storybook, ***Peace Begins with You*** by Katherine Scoles explains in simple terms the concept of peace, why conflicts occur, how they can be resolved in positive ways, and how to protect peace.

The story of Cain and Abel is eloquently retold in Sandy Sasso's children's book, ***Finding the Fruits of Peace: Cain and Abel***. This book offers the opportunity to imagine ways to end violence.

This is also a time to look at the wonder of God's creation. ***Seeds of Heaven*** by Kim M. Henry tells the story of a boy and his father on a walk on the beach where they witness the wonders of all God has made.

***Granddad's Prayers of the Earth***, a beautifully illustrated children's book by Douglas Wood explains how prayers happen all around us, and illustrates how the prayers we teach our children can bring comfort when they feel alone.

Older children will find comfort in Marc Gellman's book, ***And God Cried, Too: A Kid's Book of Healing and Hope***. This book was written in response to the events of September 11, 2001, and helps children to understand how to hold on to hope and faith when bad things happen.

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### ***Music***

***From The United Methodist Hymnal***

*Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God Almighty*

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

*The Gloria Patri – Glory Be to the Father*

*The Doxology – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

*We Shall Overcome*

*Shalom*

### ***Scripture***

#### **Love**

Deuteronomy 10.19 - Matthew 22.35-40 - 1 John 4.7 - 1 John 4.20

#### **Justice and Mercy**

Psalm 67.1-4 - Proverbs 31.8-9 - Micah 6.6-8 - Luke 4.16-21 - Matthew 15.12-14

#### **Compassion and Peace**

Proverbs 19.17 - 1 Samuel 16.7 - Matthew 7.12 - Ephesians 4.32

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### Day of Prayer 1 – Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Dear God,

There are many things that happened to my world, my country and my family before I was even born or that I cannot remember. These things still make a difference. I know you were there and you remember everything that has ever happened. I trust you, who understands the past better than any of us, to be with us in the future. Thank you for being there from the beginning of time and for promising to be with us forever! In the name of Jesus, we pray! *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 2 – Thursday, August 4, 2011

Dear God,

You made everything in the whole world: the land, the sky, the animals, plants, and people! You made everything because you wanted to share your love. I am so thankful. I am also sorry that I have not always shared your love with others. Sometimes I hurt other people with my words or what I do. Forgive me. Help me to love everyone. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 3 –Friday, August 5, 2011

We thank You, loving Father, for surrounding us with love. We remember those who have pain in their hearts and ask you to hold their hands and hearts so that Your love will heal them. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 4 – Saturday, August 6, 2011

God be with me,  
While I'm at school.  
Teach me to play with others  
And to follow all the rules!

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### Day of Prayer 5 – Sunday, August 7, 2011

O God, full of good and the One who does good,  
You extend Your loving acts to everyone in the world.  
Let me treat my neighbors with that tender love which comes to Your children  
Because You created them.  
You require love; it honors you. *Amen.*  
- John Wesley

### Day of Prayer 6 – Monday, August 8, 2011

Dear God,  
Knowing you are with me when I'm sad is like knowing the sun is only hiding behind the  
stormy clouds. I hope that others who are sad today know you are with them, too.  
*Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 7 – Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Make **Prayer Boxes** using the template from the following link. Let children use it to hold  
written prayers.

<http://homemade-gifts-made-easy.s3.amazonaws.com/wrapping/heart-box-template-US-letter.pdf>

### Day of Prayer 8 – Wednesday, August 10, 2011

Dear God,  
We have seen things on the news that upset us. Sometimes we feel frightened and we  
do not understand what we are seeing. Open our eyes to see things of beauty and your  
presence rather than the things that are ugly and frightening. We want to focus on you  
every day! We pray in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 9 – Thursday, August 11, 2011

God,  
We thank you for all that You have given us that helps us feel safe and loved. Please do  
the same for our brothers and sisters that don't feel safe and loved. *Amen.*

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### Day of Prayer 10 – Friday, August 12, 2011

Amazing God,

You made every person in the whole world. You made us each to be special. You put us in families and gave us each a nation to call home. But sometimes these things keep us from one another. Help us follow Jesus' example to make peace with everyone no matter if they are different from us. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 11 – Saturday, August 13, 2011

Using the tune of #2235 in *The Faith We Sing*, **sing** the following with your children.

Please, Lord, be the Light that shines into the darkness of fear and confusion of September 11.

We are singing for the Lord is our light! We are singing for the Lord is our light!

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### Day of Prayer 12 – Sunday, August 14, 2011

Prince of Peace,

We want to follow in Your footsteps, but it is very hard. We're sorry for fighting with our siblings and friends. We're sorry for picking on other kids at school. We're sorry for choosing our own selfish way instead of Your path of love. Forgive us, Jesus. Help us follow You so that all of our footprints have a drop of Your grace. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 13 – Monday, August 15, 2011

Dear God,

Can you give a big hug to the world?

Every person needs a big hug.

*Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 14 – Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Make a **prayer collage**. Let children cut out pictures from magazines that represent people they are praying for. Glue them onto construction paper. This is a good time to talk about images they are already seeing regarding September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

### Day of Prayer 15 – Wednesday, August 17, 2011

God,

I am thankful for my family and the home we have together. Most of all, I am thankful for the love we share. Please help me share this same love with everyone in the world.

*Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 16 – Thursday, August 18, 2011

In sunshine or in rain

Whether I'm happy or in pain

Let "Yes, Jesus Loves Me"

Be the song I always sing.

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### Day of Prayer 17 – Friday, August 19, 2011

Today let the children **visit**

<http://www.1ststeps.net/Prayground/CupofBlessings/tabid/1030/Default.aspx> and count blessings.

### Day of Prayer 18 – Saturday, August 20, 2011

Dear God,

Our world is such a beautiful gift. We thank you for the trees, the mountains, the flowers, the sun and the stars. You made the world and care deeply for it. Help us to do all we can to make the world a beautiful place, not just by caring for the earth, but by being kind and loving to each other. And remind us that you care for all of creation and especially for your children who were created in your beautiful and loving image. In Jesus' name, we pray. *Amen.*

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### Day of Prayer 19 – Sunday, August 21, 2011

Music and Movement are special ways to pray. **Sing** “This is the Day That the Lord Has Made” which can be found in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.

### Day of Prayer 20 – Monday, August 22, 2011

Jesus,  
People are sad and they need you.  
Wipe their tears and make their hearts glad.  
Thank you for being a really good friend. *Amen*.

### Day of Prayer 21 – Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Dear God,  
I want you to know that I love you and thank you for my life!  
Please forgive me for my sins and I am going to forgive people who have hurt me too.  
Protect me God and keep me close to you. Thanks for being my friend of all friends. In Jesus’ name, *Amen*.

### Day of Prayer 22 – Wednesday, August 24, 2011

For Your love that is stronger than others’ hate,  
for Your promises that are stronger than others’ threats,  
Thank You, Abba Father.

### Day of Prayer 23 – Thursday, August 25, 2011

Dear God,  
Do you really see the entire world?  
Do you really know every person on the planet?  
Do you really love everybody?  
I am glad that you do!  
*Amen*.

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### Day of Prayer 24 – Friday, August 26, 2011

God,

There are times when I just don't understand. I don't understand why people hurt us. I don't understand why people say and do mean things. When these things happen to my friends, my family, and even me, help me to forgive these people and love them just as Jesus loves me. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 25 – Saturday, August 27, 2011

Using the tune of #2139 in *The Faith We Sing*, **sing** the following words for each special person in the child's life.

Oh, I know! Oh, I know!

I know the Lord has laid His hands on me!

Oh, I know! Oh, I know!

I know the Lord has laid His hands on (insert the name here)!

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### Day of Prayer 26 – Sunday, August 28, 2011

Oh Great God,  
Thank you for creating our amazing world with so many beautiful colors and people.  
Help me to love all the people whom you have created just as you love me. Thank you  
God for being so awesome! You rock. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 27 – Monday, August 29, 2011

God of Every Nation,  
We're thankful You not only bless America, but you also bless every country in this  
whole wide world. We pray for people who do not have enough to eat or a safe place to  
sleep at night. We remember children who live in fear. Help us reach out to them in  
kindness because of Your great love for us all. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 28 – Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Dear God,  
We do not understand why everyone cannot get along and like each other. Please teach  
us to listen to one another better. Please teach us to be kinder to each other. Please  
teach us to love everyone we meet and see. As you love us, let us learn to love one  
another. We ask this in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

### Day of Prayer 29 – Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Bless my parents.  
Bless my family.  
Bless my school.  
Bless my church.  
Bless my teachers.  
Bless my friends.  
Bless the world. *Amen.*

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### Day of Prayer 30 – Thursday, September 1, 2011

Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.

*Amen.*

- St Richard of Chichester

### Day of Prayer 31 – Friday, September 2, 2011

Make me peaceful and reconcilable, easy to forgive, and glad to return good for evil.

–John Wesley

### Day of Prayer 32 – Saturday, September 3, 2011

Dear God,

You made all of your children with great love! We live all over the world. We dress differently, we have different colored skin and eyes and hair. We are each so special and wonderful! Help us to love all of your children as you do. Let us send our love out to those we know and also to those we have never met, for we are all brothers and sisters. We pray this in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

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### Day of Prayer 33 – Sunday, September 4, 2011

God,  
Sometimes, I look around me, and I see scary things. I try my best to be brave and strong but it is not always easy. Help me to remember that you are the greatest protection I will ever need. Thank you for being by my side and in my heart. In Jesus' name, *Amen*.

### Day of Prayer 34 – Monday, September 5, 2011

Father,  
As we see pictures and hear memories of the suffering and confusion of September 11, help us to remember all the good that you have put in Your world. Help us, most of all, to share Your love and promises with those we meet that are suffering and confused.

### Day of Prayer 35 – Tuesday, September 6, 2011

God,  
You are a divine doctor who heals our bodies and our hearts. A lot of people are hurting because of what happened on September 11, 2001. I pray that you will help them feel better. *Amen*.

### Day of Prayer 36 – Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Dear God,  
Why do grownups watch the news?  
The news is sad.  
On the news, I see people hurting and crying.  
I pray that there is happy news.  
Please bring news that makes people smile and dance.  
I pray that the news will talk about love, peace and no more war. *Amen*.

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### Day of Prayer 37 – Thursday, September 8, 2011

Lord, make me an instrument of [your] peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon,  
where there is doubt, faith,  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

*-St. Francis of Assisi*

### Day of Prayer 38 – Friday, September 9, 2011

Today, let the children **write** a prayer to share on September 11, 2011.

### Day of Prayer 39 – Saturday, September 10, 2011

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever. *Amen.*

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### Day of Prayer – Sunday, September 11, 2011

Dear God,

We pray for all of the people who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001. Comfort them and continue to guide them in your hope. Help us to honor the lives of those who died, through our thoughts and our actions. Fill us with love and forgiveness, and help us to live peacefully with each other. *Amen.*

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth!

**Share** prayers that the children have written. *On this day, your congregation may plan something special. Encourage the worship leaders to include the prayers the children have written.*