

Passing of the Peace Light

St. Paul's Chapel

4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 10, 2013

Welcome

Leader

Good afternoon and welcome to St. Paul's Chapel. Today we pause for ten minutes and offer prayers for peace. We especially welcome those who bring the Peace Light today. All are invited to participate by taking a program from one of the guards or by having a seat at the center of the room. You are welcome to continue viewing the exhibit, but please maintain silence during the prayers.

Tolling of the Chapel Bell

Leader

We begin by tolling the Chapel bell in four sets of five rings, which is the Fire Department tribute to a fallen comrade.

The bell tolls for all who died on September 11, 2001. It tolls for the volunteers who worked through the aftermath, for those who continue to suffer, and for everyone still working for healing and peace.

Please stand, and if you are viewing the exhibit, please stop and stand still where you are, as we observe a minute of silence while the Chapel Bell tolls.

[Staff tolls bell in four sets of five strikes]

Officiant pauses and silently counts to ten after the last tolling of the bell, then continues with the service.

Scripture Reading

Choose one of the following options.

THE BEATITUDES

Leader

Jesus tells us in scripture that peacemakers, those who work for righteousness, and those who are merciful are blessed, saying the following:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Sharing of the Light Ceremony

Presenter Dear Friends, The flame of this lantern originated in the city of Bethlehem in the country of Israel. We bring you this light in the spirit of the one who was born there over 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ, the one that the Bible calls, the Light of the World and the Prince of Peace. The prophet Isaiah, long ago, spoke these words, *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.*

This light gives us hope, that even though there is much darkness in the world, we can still see signs of loving and peaceful community. We can still see people living together in harmony, and working together for your peace and justice.

Please receive the light of this lantern as a visible reminder of the mission we share. As believing people our mission is to keep the hope of peace alive in our world, our communities, and our homes.

Recipient We thank you for bringing this peace light to us. May this flame inspire us to commit ourselves to peace, love, justice, and hope. May those we touch each day see this light shining in our lives. As Jesus said, *May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* We wish you God's blessings and safety as you continue on your journey.

Passing of the Peace Light

Presenter: Let us pray. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you that your *light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.* Make us ambassadors of your peace in all that we do, think, and say. Bless the flame that we carry and share with others. May it burn brightly in the lives of those who need to hear a word of hope. May it give courage and confidence to all those who face the darkness. Thank you God, for your light. Amen.

Presenter and Receiver pass the light from the Peace Light to the Altar light, using two tapers.

The Prayers

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Leader **We'll pray together now, using the Prayer of St. Francis, found in your booklet. Let us pray:**

Leader/All **Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Blessing

Leader

**May the God of peace travel with us on our journeys,
guiding our feet in paths of grace and mercy.**

Sharing of the Peace

Leader

**As we go forth from this place, God is among us making
peace. Greet someone you do not yet know, offering to one
another a handshake, a smile, or some other sign of that
peace.**

People

**The peace of the Lord be always with you.
*And also with you.***