

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

Leader: Having looked at our failings, let us now give thanks to God for the signs of God's reign in our midst.

For the UN's selfless work on behalf of refugees...

**All: We give thanks.**

For the courageous stance between warring factions...

**All: We give thanks.**

For the compassionate proclamations on the rights of the child...

**All: We give thanks.**

For the determined commitment to eradicate prejudice based on race, gender and age...

**All: We give thanks.**

For patient cooperation leading to the healing of people's bodies and the healing of ecological wounds...

**All: We give thanks.**

Please add your own intentions.



## Blessing

Dear God, lover of all,  
We praise you for giving Jesus  
as our Savior;  
He blessed the children  
who came to Him.

Now, look on us with love  
And protect us with Your love.  
We ask God to keep us childlike as we age,  
That we may inherit the Kingdom of God.

We ask for Your blessing, dear God,  
Through Jesus Christ,  
Our Teacher and Saviour.

All: Amen

—Source Unknown



Designed by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo  
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Thank you to Janis Foley for sharing your  
liturgy.



## A Prayer Service for United Nations Day

October 24

*"The purpose of the United Nations is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well-being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems".*

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)



## Introduction

Today, we turn our hearts, minds and souls to the global community. On October 24, we celebrate United Nations Day. The UN has accomplished some wonderful work in bringing peace and justice to the world. We join in thanksgiving for the good the UN has done to make this world a better place, especially for children. Today's liturgy will focus on the role which the UN has played in bettering the lives of children around the world.



### Opening Prayer

God of all the earth,  
We come together today to pray for  
the United Nations.  
May it be a vehicle for bringing about Your  
Reign of Justice.  
May it lead us to unity and Peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.

—Christine Way Skinner

## The United Nations Rights of a Child



Leader: Lover of Children, you tell us that the childlike are the greatest in the kingdom of God, but too often the children of the world live in poverty, oppression and neglect. We ask your mercy and your guidance as we reflect on those rights children everywhere have.

Reader 1: Children everywhere have the right to affection, love, and understanding.

Reader 2: Many live alone and are uncared for.

Leader: For our lack of sympathy, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.



Reader 1: Children everywhere have the right to adequate nutrition and medical care.

Reader 2: Many live in poverty, without the necessities of life.

Leader: For our greedy lifestyles, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Reader 1: Children have the right to an education.

Reader 2: Many live in unchosen ignorance.

Leader: For our lack of guidance, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Reader 1: Children everywhere have the right to a full opportunity for play and recreation.

Reader 2: Many children at a young age spend their days in overworked sweatshops.

Leader: For continuing to financially support those corporations who use children in their factories, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Reader 1: Children everywhere have the right to special care if they are disabled.

Reader 2: Many children do not have access to the services they require.

Leader: For our lack of awareness, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Reader 1: Children have the right to be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal love and enjoy these rights regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, national or social origin.

Reader 2: Yet discrimination and prejudice remain in our society.

Leader: For allowing discrimination to continue in our society, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.



## Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:1-6

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

