

What Is Peace?

What is peace?

Peace is the cry of a new born baby
cradled lovingly in a home that is safe and warm.

What is peace?

Peace is the conversation over a mug of tea
at the drop-in shelter where everyone is accepted.

What is peace?

Peace is the excited shouts of children at play
charging energetically around a playground.

What is peace?

Peace is the everyday murmur of buses and cars
And the cheery "hello" of a neighbour.

What is peace?

Peace is the whispered "sorry" said through tears
and the hug that says "you're forgiven".

We call you a God of peace...

but the baby didn't stay snuggled safe and warm
and had to flee as a refugee to escape Herod's violence.

We call you a God of peace...

yet you got into trouble with Mary and Joseph
causing them to worry When you stayed behind in the temple.

We call you a God of peace...

yet you set tongues wagging in disapproval
as you reached out and touched a man with leprosy.

We call you a God of peace...

Yet you drew a line in the sand and issued a challenge
stepping in to protect a woman from harm.

We call you a God of peace...

Yet they came to arrest you with swords
And put you to death on a cross.

On the night Jesus was betrayed

On the night Jesus was turned over to his enemies
Jesus invited both friend and betrayer to eat with him.

On the night Jesus was jeered at and humiliated

On the night Jesus was physically beaten
He took bread and gave thanks and shared it with them:

This is my body, given for you

Do this and forgive one another
for we are all one body here on earth.

[share bread]

On the night before Jesus was tortured
On the night before Jesus was killed
He took wine, poured it and shared it with them:

This is my blood, given for you
Do this and celebrate together
in the new relationship between God and one another.

[share wine]

For there is no peace without justice
For there is no justice without peace

May we become peace-makers
May we become justice-loving
And may we walk gently upon this earth.

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