

Symphony of Peace Prayers

A BRIEF GUIDE TO HOSTING AN SOPP EVENT IN YOUR AREA

WHAT is the Symphony of Peace Prayers?

The Symphony of Peace Prayers (SOPP) is an inter-religious, inter-spiritual annual peace prayer event, first held in 2005 at Fuji Sanctuary in Japan. At the core of this event is its unique prayer ceremony, in which representatives from various world faiths and spiritual traditions lead participants in their own prayers for peace. Since 2007, the SOPP has been linked with the larger-scale Global Peace Meditation and Prayer Day event. In 2008, the first local SOPP ceremonies were held in locations around the world. In recent years, hundreds of thousands of people have participated in more than 50 countries worldwide.

WHY a Symphony of Peace Prayers?

The SOPP creates a global network of prayer for peace on Earth. The more people that join in this event, the more powerful the vibrations of our united prayers will be. As these vibrations connect with each other and circle the planet, we will spread waves of peace, harmony, light, and love to all corners of the Earth, elevating the consciousness of *all* humanity, so that peace may be realized as soon as possible.

WHO can host and join in an SOPP ceremony?

The SOPP is open to all, and no special experience or background is required to organize and host an event. It is encouraged to welcome as many and as wide a range of people to your gathering as possible. In particular, you may wish to make your event suitable for children and families.

WHERE can you organize or join in an event?

Many SOPP events are already planned in locations around the world. You can plan a simple event at your home with friends and family, or a larger-scale event involving community members and others. Larger gatherings are often held at local clubs, places of worship, public gathering halls, or outdoor facilities.

HOW do you create an SOPP program?

You are free to create your own program that honors a diversity of spiritual traditions, celebrating the oneness of humanity and our common wish for peace. The SOPP was originally conceived around two core elements (below), which you are free to interpret in any way you wish. You may also include any other programs and activities that fit with the SOPP's theme and purpose.

Prayers of different faiths and spiritual traditions

In this part of the program, prayer leaders from different faiths and spiritual traditions take turns leading participants in their own prayers for peace. You can invite leaders and representatives from any spiritual tradition, no matter how large or small. The simple act of religious and spiritual leaders praying the prayers of other faiths, joined in unison by all participants, sends a powerful message of tolerance and harmony. You can also invite participants to offer a peace prayer from their own traditions, or anything else they want to share.

Prayers for peace in each country

With united hearts and minds, participants are invited to offer prayers for peace in all the countries and regions of the world. Often, a set of national flags is used to represent each nation, as well as an Earth Flag representing all the other regions. This moving ceremony transcends national, religious, and ideological boundaries, giving expression to the universal wish for peace and harmony. Here, 'prayer' for peace does not mean a set prayer of a particular faith or creed—rather, it is an affirmation and declaration of our common wish and aspiration, in communion with a heart of oneness, compassion, and love for humanity. If you wish, you may use the following universal prayer: *May peace be in _____ (name of country or region). May peace prevail on Earth.* Sometimes, participants speak this prayer, or just the word 'peace,' in the language(s) of each country.

Other programs

The possibilities are endless! Past SOPP ceremonies have included music, song, and dance, activities for communing with nature, spiritual traditions of indigenous peoples, individual and group meditations, 'global prayers' for peace, harmony, and oneness, mandala-writing workshops, and more. Activities may also be planned around the attendance of special guests and participants.

For more ideas and information or to contact us, please visit us on the web:

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