



A Prayer for the 63rd Anniversary of Hiroshima Day - August 6, 2008

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Like most traumatic scars, the ones that are found in Hiroshima and Nagasaki are permanent: reminders of the terrible damage human beings can inflict.

Similar scars can be found in the hearts and souls of people around the world who understand this terror: scars of grief, sadness and even shame.

None of these scars promise an end to war and devastation. Instead, they serve as a reminder of healing and renewal - of a return to life.

Gracious God, Spirit of Life and Love, help us to see our scars: those we have created, those we are called to witness, and those we can soothe and heal.

We are deeply grateful for the buds and blossoms that even the most scarred offer as a revelation to the world. We will attend to them, and learn from them.

And, especially on this 63rd anniversary of Hiroshima Day, we renew our commitment to peace individually, collectively and globally:

To "peace within" which calms our anxieties and fears,
To "peace between" which overcomes differences, animosities and conflict,
And, to the great peace, beyond even our understanding, that is Your gift
and which we are the stewards of for the world.

Amen.

(Photos: A Phoenix tree survived the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Six weeks after the bombing it produced buds, and was later transplanted to the Hiroshima Peace park where it lives today.

The long scar along the length of the tree's trunk was caused by the force of the bomb.)

Photo Credit: Paul Custodio Bube, Lyon College

