

## Please Join Us

# Good Friday Witness for Peace 2015



“They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war anymore.” — Isaiah 2:4



Since the end of War II in 1945, generations of the Earth's inhabitants have lived under the constant threat of nuclear annihilation. If one thermonuclear warhead could destroy all of Boston and its surrounding suburbs, what

would happen to this planet if war erupted among the nations already armed with nuclear weapons?

- ❖ Many presidents, including President Obama, have pledged to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Despite some reductions in the stockpiles of intercontinental ballistic missiles, the United States and Russia still possess more than 10,000 nuclear weapons, 90% of the all the world's nuclear weapons. The US plans to spend one trillion dollars over the next 30 years to modernize its nuclear weapons arsenal. What is a trillion? One trillion seconds equals 31,688 years. That is longer than all of recorded history.
- ❖ A small portion of the money earmarked for nuclear weapons we hope never to use could build more effective transportation, could repair decaying bridges, could house more of the homeless, and could feed the one in five US children who do not have consistent access to adequate food.

**O**n this Good Friday, we stand in silence praying for peace. We pray for peace in our families, our work places, our neighborhoods, our nation and our world. We grieve for the violence that occurs in the name of religion and are mindful of the historic use of Good Friday as a day of violence against Jews. Jesus of Nazareth taught reconciliation, redemption, forgiveness. As we think about applying his teachings to the violence in our world we ask:

- ❖ What does the continued development of ever more lethal weapons, including nuclear ones, say about our society?
- ❖ What does an ever-growing military budget and a diminishing one for services to the poor say about our values?
- ❖ Does threatening violence to others, the cornerstone of our nuclear policy, contribute in any way to peace?
- ❖ We pray and work for a day when the vast wealth of our nation will be used, not for weapons and war, but to enhance life on earth.

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*This witness is organized by the  
Friends Meeting at Cambridge (Quakers),  
with help from residents of Beacon Hill Friends House*

This vigil was planned and organized by Friends Meeting at Cambridge (Quakers) [fmcquaker.org](http://fmcquaker.org), 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge, MA 02138. **Please join us in working for peace and justice. Organizations to contact to pursue these goals include:**

### **Religious Organizations**

American Friends Service Committee: 617-661-6130 | [afsc.org](http://afsc.org)  
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries: 617-244-3650 | [coopmet.org](http://coopmet.org)  
Episcopal Peace Fellowship: 312-922-8628 | [epfnational.org](http://epfnational.org) Friends  
Committee on National Legislation: 800-630-1330 | [fcn.org](http://fcn.org) Greater  
Boston Interfaith Organization: 671-825-5600 | [gbio.org](http://gbio.org)  
Jewish Peace Fellowship: 845-358-4601 | [jewishpeacefellowship.org](http://jewishpeacefellowship.org) Muslim  
Peace Fellowship: 215-635-0636 | [muslimpeacefellowship.org](http://muslimpeacefellowship.org) Pax Christi:  
617-262-9461 | [paxchristiusa.org](http://paxchristiusa.org)

*For information on other religious peace groups see:  
Fellowship of Reconciliation: [forusa.org](http://forusa.org)*

### **Other Organizations**

Arms Control Association: [armscontrol.org](http://armscontrol.org) Environmentalists  
Against War: [envirosagainstar.org](http://envirosagainstar.org) Global Zero: [globalzero.org](http://globalzero.org)  
Military Families Speak Out: 617-983-0710 | [mfso.org](http://mfso.org)  
National Priorities Project: [nationalpriorities.org](http://nationalpriorities.org) Nonviolent  
Peace Force: [nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://nonviolentpeaceforce.org) Peace Action: 617-  
354-2169 | [peace-action.org](http://peace-action.org)  
Peace and the Planet: [peaceandplanet.org](http://peaceandplanet.org)  
United for Peace and Justice: [unitedforpeace.org](http://unitedforpeace.org)  
Veterans for Peace: [veteransforpeace.org](http://veteransforpeace.org) and [smedleyvfp.org](http://smedleyvfp.org) Women's  
International League for Peace and Freedom:  
617-266-0999 | [wilpf.org](http://wilpf.org)