

**The International Day of Peace** celebrations at the United Nations traditionally opens with a Peace Bell ringing ceremony in the Rose Garden. In the presence of ambassadors and their representatives from various UN Permanent Missions, UN Secretary general, António Guterres, rang the Peace Bell to open the IDP celebrations. **May Peace Prevail On Earth** International flags representing each of the 193 member states of the United Nations were carried by international students during the opening ceremony as it has been an annual tradition for the past decades.

***“Because we all share this planet earth, we have to learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. That is not just a dream, but a necessity. We are dependent on each other in so many ways that we can no longer live in isolated communities and ignore what is happening outside those communities.”***

**The Dalai Lama**

No less impressive than the UN peace bell was the opening song of peace as people gathered at the House of Prayer Peace Pole - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PW76qmotaaM>

The Peace Liturgy included reflection and prayers for all aspects of peace, physical, spiritual and mental and the **Minute of Silence**, the observation of which has grown around the world resulting in a 24-hour Peace Wave at Noon in each time zone.

Threading a blue ribbon through their fingers, on which was written the name of every country in the world, people prayed **May Peace Prevail** for countries of their choice and the well-being and possibility of a non-violent world.

Our House of Prayer peace pole is one of more than 200 000 which have been planted in many countries around the world. and on which is inscribed the simple, five-word prayer: **‘May Peace Prevail on Earth.’**

The prayer bridges religious and linguistic divisions, bringing people together in a common expression of hope for world peace. These poles are set into the ground as constant reminders and witnesses to the hope for peace.

