

What is nonviolence?

for three voices which could be used during a service or to start a discussion.

Voice 1: What is nonviolence?

Voice 2: It is a strategy for social change that rejects violence.

Voice 3: It is a philosophy of active peacemaking.

Voice 2: It is a spiritual discipline.

Voice 3: It is a pragmatic choice based on what works.

Voice 2: It is an active response to violence.

Voice 3: It is a force more powerful than violence.

(pause)

Voice 1: Why are we talking about nonviolence here in church?

Voice 3: Because God's will is for peace.

Voice 2: Because God calls us to turn swords into ploughshares.

Voice 3: Because God is the source of power.

Voice 2: Because God is the source of love.

Voice 3: Because God is love.

(pause)

Voice 1: Yes, but why are we talking about nonviolence at Mass **today**?

Voice 3: Because today is Peace Sunday.

Voice 2: Because both Pope Francis and Pope Leo have asked us to think about nonviolence.

Voice 3: Because nonviolence offers a style of politics for peace.

Voice 2: Because we need better tools for solving conflicts.

Voice 3: Because nonviolence can turn enemies into friends.

(pause)

Voice 1: How do Christians walk the talk of nonviolence in everyday life?

Voice 2: By working for justice.

Voice 3: By trusting in God rather than trusting in weapons.

Voice 2: By practising creative and disarming ways of responding to a crisis.

Voice 3: By actively and publicly resisting war.

Voice 2: By building relationships with those who are supposed to be enemies.

Voice 3: By showing more love.

(pause)

Voice 1: What is nonviolence?

Voice 2: The way of Jesus.

Voice 3: A force more powerful than violence.

Voice 2: The way of love.

*adapted from Prayers and Practices of Nonviolence,
Mennonite Central Committee Canada, 2011*



Pax Christi

www.paxchristi.org.uk



Catholic Nonviolence Initiative

www.nonviolencejustpeace.net