

**A Litany of Celebration**  
**on the Thirtieth Anniversary of *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling***

Thirty years ago in days of cold wars, struggle, poverty, and great unrest,

**We stood on the border of a promised time.**<sup>1</sup>

Challenging ourselves to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God,

**We stood on the border of a promised time.**

Studying, praying, building, talking, listening, welcoming, being welcomed,

**We stood on the border of a promised time.**

Seeking peace in our churches, our communities, our nation, and our world,

**We stood on the border of a promised time.**

Praying and working for peace,

**We stood on the border of a promised time.**

As individuals and communities, we sought peace and heard the words of Jesus:

**Blessed are the peacemakers.**

Today, in a broken and wounded world, where children still go hungry, wars run hot, violence appears pervasive, oppression seems strong, and weather patterns become more extreme,

**We stand on the border of a promised time.**

Boldly working for peace surpassing our own understanding,

**We stand on the border of a promised time.**

Struggling to be accountable in the face of nuclear proliferation, racism, and torture,

**We stand on the border of a promised time.**

When a rapidly changing world opens new possibilities for God's love to intersect with injustice,

**We stand on the border of a promised time.**

When we welcome the stranger, build community, organize our communities, and invite others to join us,

**We cross the border.**

When we bind up wounds, work to transform systems, and offer forgiveness,

**We cross the border.**

When we address violence and practice nonviolence,

**We cross the border.**

When we pray, study, and engage with sisters and brothers around the world in the holy task of peacemaking,

**We cross the border.**

As we respond to God's call in Jesus to build a just peace,

**We are blessed by the opportunity to live into our calling to be peacemakers.**

We hear anew his words:

**Blessed are the peacemakers.**

**Amen.**

- **The Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz**

---

<sup>1</sup> From *Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling*, [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/believers.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/believers.pdf).

**About this resource**

In 1980, the 192<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America adopted the statement, *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*.

**About the author**

The Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz served as a young adult intern in the Presbyterian United Nations Office. Through February 2010, she is the director of the Common Ground Project at McCormick Theological Seminary. Beginning in March 2010, she will be the director of the Leading Generations Initiative of the Fund for Theological Education.

Published by the  
Presbyterian Peacemaking Program  
Compassion, Peace and Justice  
General Assembly Mission Council  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking)

Swords into Plowshares, the blog of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program  
<http://presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/>