

**PRAY
AND
ACT
FOR
PEACE**



A Prayer for the Opening of the School Year

Dear Jesus,

As summer comes to an end,
Walk with our children when they return to school.

Help them to feel so secure in your love, that they know grades do not define them and peer pressure loses its power to guide them to the wrong path.

Help them to hold on to what is true,

What is noble
What is right
What is pure
What is lovely
What is admirable
What is excellent
What is praiseworthy

While they are in venues that promote nationalism, militarism, consumerism and selfishness.

Help them to practice radical kindness to outcasts, when they yearn to be popular.

Help those who feel outcast to find their hope in you and in the Beloved Community of those who follow you.

Help us to make our church a home for people of all ages.

Help us to guarantee that everyone who enters will find friendship and fellowship, a place that restores and revitalizes us for the coming week, a place where we learn how to be citizens of God's Kingdom and receive encouragement to prize that citizenship more highly than the obligations and temptations of the world.

Written by Kathleen Kern. Kathleen has worked with Christian Peacemaker Teams since 1993, serving in Haiti; Washington, D.C.; the West Bank; Mexico; South Dakota and Colombia. She currently lives near Rochester, N.Y. and recently finished a history of Christian Peacemaker Teams. She is the editor of CPTNet.