Xmas Truce Video Script

To record your reading of the script...
Please do your best to...
• Be in a quiet room so you can be heard
• Speak clearly
• Make sure your face is well-lit enough to be seen.
• Try to have an interesting background if possible
• If you are a clergy member, we’d appreciate if you could wear a clerical collar or some other sort of signifier.
• If using a handheld camera, we’d appreciate it if you did it in “landscape mode,” NOT “portrait” straight up and down mode
• Thank you for participating!

VOICE: On Christmas Eve in 1914 a miracle occurred on the battlefields in Europe.

VOICE: It was an event, so unique that many still don’t believe it actually happened, despite the existence of photographic evidence and eyewitness testimony.

VOICE: Accounts of the episode record that 100,000 German and British soldiers ceased fire and participated in a brief and spontaneous truce along the Western Front.

VOICE: Emerging from their trenches, soldiers ventured into the “no man’s land” where they shared food and drink, they sang Christmas carols and even played soccer together.

VOICE: That historic moment continues to reverberate in our collective imaginations over a century later.

VOICE: As the war in Ukraine rages on, countless thousands of civilians and combatants have already died and 14 million have been displaced. All the while, the potential for escalation and the use of nuclear weapons grows.

VOICE: Beyond Ukraine’s borders the impact is seen in rising prices for wheat, fertilizer and fuel that are causing a growing crisis in global hunger and poverty.

VOICE: In this holiday season of peace, the Fellowship of Reconciliation has partnered with CODEPINK, the National Council of Elders and the Peace in Ukraine Coalition to gather interfaith leaders to demand that a Christmas truce be declared in Ukraine as soon as possible.

VOICE: We ask our government’s leaders to use this spontaneous moment of reconciliation from over 100 years ago as an inspiration to forge a different path today. A Christmas Truce in 2022 could save lives and pave the way for critical peace talks.
VOICE: Whether it is Christians preparing for Christmas or Jews awaiting the celebration of the miracle of Hanukkah all the Abrahamic faiths and other communities of faith and conscience around the world embrace the prophetic voice of Isaiah who exhorted us to transform swords into plowshares.

VOICE: The way out of the war in Ukraine will not be a military solution.

VOICE: There is no WAY to peace. Peace IS the way and it requires powers of a different sort: negotiation and imagination.

As representatives of a diverse group of faith communities, we make this petition and pray that our leaders have the courage and conscience to use those powers instead.

VOICE: It is time for...
VOICE: a Christmas
VOICE: Truce...
VOICE: In Ukraine
VOICE: Now

STATEMENT:

As people of faith and conscience, believing in the sanctity of all life on this planet, we call for a Christmas Truce in Ukraine. In the spirit of the truce that occurred in 1914 during the First World War, we urge our government to take a leadership role in bringing the war in Ukraine to an end through supporting calls for a ceasefire and negotiated settlement, before the conflict results in a nuclear war that could devastate the world’s ecosystems and annihilate all of God’s creation.