

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



AUGUST 9, 2015 - ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (B)
REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

This week the international community marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In August of 1945, at the end of WWII, the United States dropped the world's first two atomic bombs, killing 129,000-246,000 people. The first bomb, "Little Boy," was dropped August 6th on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, and the second, "Fat Man," was dropped August 9th on the Japanese city of Nagasaki.

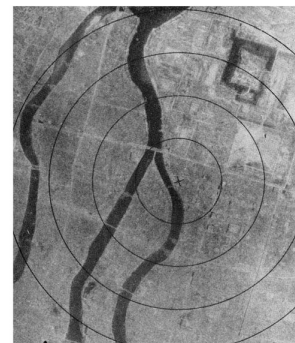
In Hiroshima, the immediate explosion wiped out 90% of the city (5 square miles), and killed 80,000 citizens on impact; however, this devastating blow did not lead to Japanese surrender. Three days after "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima, "Fat Man" descended on Nagasaki. Although "Fat Man" was a stronger bomb than "Little Boy," the bomb missed its target causing destruction to be limited to 2.6 square miles unlike the 5 square miles destroyed in Hiroshima. Even years after these two explosions, Hiroshima and Nagasaki experienced tremendous losses due to radiation poisoning.

Over half of Hiroshima was rebuilt following the attack in 1945, although one section, Peace Memorial Park, will be forever set aside in remembrance of the destruction from WWII. Every year on August 6th, thousands of people gather at this park to join in various religious services to commemorate the bombing.

Through a General Convention resolution in 1997, The Episcopal Church expresses sorrow to the Japanese people for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today, Hiroshima and Nagasaki finally have radiation levels matching the rest of the World's; however, the painful memory of the atomic bombings will live on much longer. Episcopalians should continue to remember this tragic historic event by promoting reconciliation and remembrance.

Prayer for Hiroshima from the Anglican Diocese of Leicester

God, you are the Father of all the Families of the Earth,
and call the nations to live in peace and unity.
We remember with sorrow the devastating destruction and death
unleashed upon the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
We pray for the people of Japan,
and all whose lives are disfigured by war.
We pray for ourselves,
the often unwise stewards of the powers of the universe.
Transfigure the lives and cities scarred by conflict
by the revealing of your glory
and move us by your uncreated energies
to advance your sovereign purpose of peace.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,
our light and our salvation. Amen.



Before and after the bombing at Hiroshima,
1945