

Prayers for Peace

International Day of Peace

a time of prayer reflecting interfaith and international concerns for peace

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CANBERRA

12 NOON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2005

GATHERING

Bells will chime commencing the service and acknowledging the call to peace.

Organ prelude

Ms Sheila Thompson

Greeting

Rev Greg Thompson, St Johns Canberra

Forgive us for saying “ peace” where there is no peace,

where children have gnawing hunger,

where rural people are exploited,

where city dwellers are crowded into slums,

where those who speak for freedom are tortured.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

LAMENTING

Rev Jeanette Mathews, Associate Minister, Canberra Baptist

Let us be silent

as we grieve the violence in our world,

the lack of compassion,

the dependence upon war,

the faith in pre-emptive attack,

the seemingly endless spiral of violence

A silence is held.

Forgive us for participating in that which turns people against each other;

for fuelling anger and harbouring vengeance,

and not heeding your call to love one another.

(singing) Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Forgive us for not always sharing with the world the blessings of prosperity that we have received as a nation.

In our comfort, we have not always seen the uncomfortable.

In the caring for our own, we have not always cared for the least of your kingdom.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Renew us in faith, Lord, and grant us peace.

(said) Renew us in faith, Lord, and grant us peace.

LISTENING and REFLECTING

A reading from the Qur' an

The Rev Theresa Angert-Quilter, Lyneham Uniting Church Parish.

Praise be to God, Sovereign of the Universe, The Compassionate, the Merciful, You alone we worship, and to You alone we turn for help. Guide us to the straight path, the path of those whom You have favoured.

To Him shall you all return: God's promise shall be fulfilled. He brings the creation into being and will then restore it, so that He may justly recompense those who have believed in Him and done good works. 10:4 As for those that believe and do good works, God will guide them through their faith. Rivers will run at their feet in the Gardens of Delight. Their prayer will be: 'Glory be to You, Lord!' and their greeting: 'Peace!' 'Praise be to God, Sovereign of the Universe' will be the burthen of their plea. 10:9

Praise be to God, Sovereign of the Universe, The Compassionate, the Merciful, You alone we worship, and to You alone we turn for help. Guide us to the straight path, the path of those whom You have favoured.

A Reflection on Peace

Mary Cabrera, Ambassador for Peace, Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women' s Assoc, International Council

Music – “ Deep Peace” , by John Rutter

A reading from the Christian Bible

Rod Corrigan, Field Officer, Canberra and Southern Region, NSW Ecumenical Council

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. James 3:13-18

A Reflection on Peace

Ms Helen Disney, President United Nations Association of Australia (ACT)

Prayers for Peace

Sr Mary Corkeron.

Be with us now, O God, and hear our prayer for peace.

Be with us now, O God, and hear our prayer for peace.

Open our eyes, and help us see the world around as you see it.

Renew us in faith, and grant us peace.

Open our eyes and help us to see where you love is needed most.

Renew us in faith, and grant us peace.

Open our eyes and hearts to your truth.

Renew us in faith, and grant us peace.

As we seek justice, make us just.

As we seek forgiveness, make us forgive.

Renew us in faith, and grant us peace.

Guard and protect those who stand in harm' s way.

Inspire the leaders of nations to pursue equity and peace.

Renew us in faith, and grant us peace.

Grant wisdom to our leaders, and to the United Nations.

Renew us in faith, and grant us peace.

Grant peace in our land, in our homes, in our places of work.

Renew us in faith, and grant us peace.

God of our ancestors, God of all who are in need, heed our call and answer our prayer.

Send peace in our time,

peace for our hearts, peace for our land, peace for all the world,

peace that abides as we abide in you. ***Amen.***

SHARING in HOPE

Song – “ Let there be peace on earth”

Please stand and sing

Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father,
brothers and sisters are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
let this be the moment now;
With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment, and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

PASSING OF PEACE

The congregation is seated and silence is held.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

The Rev Theresa Angert-Quilter, Lyneham Uniting Church Parish.

During the singing of meditative songs, the congregation is invited to light a candle.

Songs

Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away, that never dies away.

Dona nobis pacem Domine (Grant us peace, Lord)

Closing Prayer for Peace

The Rev Greg Thompson, St Johns Canberra

O God,

it is your will to hold both heaven and earth
in a single peace.

Let the design of your great love
shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows,
and give peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace between faiths,
peace in our homes,
and peace in our hearts. **Amen**

Sung Blessing – “ Deep stillness”

Please stand and sing

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland
for you, deep blue of the desert skies
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones,
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you’ re burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering spirit
soothe and replenish you
in the name of Christ, in the name of Christ.

Julie Perrin & Robin Mann

Acknowledgements

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