



Monday of Holy Week – a time of reflection and prayer for peace.

**We welcome you to St Matthew's Church this evening and hope you enjoy our worship together.*

**If you are with us for the first time please fill in one of the Welcome leaflets. Thank you.*

Please join in the words in **bold print.*

**Remember to switch off your mobile phone whilst you are in the church*

A candle is lit.

The minister says:

We meet together this evening in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to pray for peace in our world at a time when it is sorely needed. As we work our way through this Holy Week, as we journey with Christ to the cross, we will hold in our hearts all those who are suffering at this time through humanity's inability to love its neighbour.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives Thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and
stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind,
and fire,
O still small voice of calm.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

Reading

Isaiah 57:15-19

¹⁵ For this is what the high and exalted
One says—

he who lives forever, whose name is
holy:

“I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is contrite
and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the
contrite.

¹⁶ I will not accuse them forever,
nor will I always be angry,
for then they would faint away because
of me—

the very people I have created.

¹⁷ I was enraged by their sinful greed;
I punished them, and hid my face in
anger,

yet they kept on in their willful ways.

¹⁸ I have seen their ways, but I will heal
them;

I will guide them and restore
comfort to Israel’s mourners,

¹⁹ creating praise on their lips.

Peace, peace, to those far and near,”
says the Lord. “And I will heal them.”

Intercessions I

We pray for those suffering from the
effects of war and violence.

For all those in Israel at this time,
struggling to keep our holy sites open
for prayer.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

For all living in the Middle East, that
they might feel your love and find a safe
way through this time of war.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

For Ukraine – for citizens struggling to
live through the cold months without
light and heat.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

For all other places around this world
where war and violence are a reality
Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

For all those living amongst us,
concerned for the safety of loved ones
back home, living or working in an area
of violence and war.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Reflection

Music for reflection

Hymn

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair Your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and
goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written
Your great Name on humankind;
for our growing in Your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009) © 1968 Stainer & Bell Ltd

Intercessions 2

We pray for the leaders of the
nations,
that you will guide them in the ways
of freedom, justice and truth.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who bear arms on
behalf of the nation,
that they may have discipline and
discernment,

courage and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for our enemies, and those
who wish us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all to
kindness and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for the wounded and the
captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know
your love and support.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself
give you peace at all times in all ways.
The Lord be with all of you.

Reflection

Taize Chant

My peace I leave you,
my peace I give you.
Trouble not your hearts.
My peace I leave you,
my peace I give you.
Be not afraid.

*Taizé Community © Ateliers et Presses de
Taizé*

The minister says:

We are now invited to light a candle for peace – whether that is for a place in the world, or for a group of people, or for an individual.

As we do so, we offer them to God, the God who offers peace willingly to us all.

All are invited to come forward and light a candle

We stand at the foot of the cross and as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, your will
be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins, as we
forgive those who sin against
us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.**

God our Father,
your Son is our peace
and his cross the sign of
reconciliation:
help us to bring together what is
scattered
and to bind up what is wounded,
that Christ may bring in the

everlasting kingdom of his peace;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the
Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants,
life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always. Amen

Copyright acknowledgement:

*Some material included in this service is
copyright: © 1989 National Council of the
Churches of Christ, USA*

*Some material included in this service is
copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000*

*Some material included in this service is
copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2002*

*Copyright © 2012, WGRG, Iona Community,
Glasgow,
G2 3DH, Scotland. wgrg@iona.org.uk;
www.wgrg.co.uk. Reproduced by permission.*

Words reproduced under CCL No 5686

*Reprinted with permission under ONE
LICENSE, Licence #A-739265 All rights
reserved*