



*A Vigil
for
Peace and Reconciliation
in
The Land of the Holy One*

October 17, 2023, at 6:30pm

Participants

The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil

The Most Reverend Colin Johnson

The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

Philippa Campsie

Carol Kysela

Matthew Waterman

Thomas Bell (*flute*)

Jonathan Stuchbery (*guitar*)

*The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada*

ORDER OF THE VIGIL

Musical Introduction

Letter from Archbishop Hosam Naoum

Welcome

Silence

Confession

Lord Jesus, you wept over Jerusalem during your earthly ministry, you continue to weep over her now. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division, jealousy and bitterness. Look on your world in its brokenness. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner. Grant us pardon, peace: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Prayers

God of Peace, who calls us to peace, shine the light of your presence on the land of the Holy One, where the spiritual seed of Abraham, both Muslims and Jews, are its joint stewards, and continues to be broken by war and violence. May the beams of that light show the way of justice and mercy and a vision of peace, turning hatred into love, fear into trust, despair into hope. In Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

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 tranquility 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. **Amen.**

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to

work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Music *As you are able, this is an opportunity to light a votive candle for peace.*

Silence

A Litany for the Restoration of Peace the Land of the Holy One

God of peace, we pray for the people of Palestine and Israel in these perilous and dangerous times.

For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves, we pray that the assurance of unfailing love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them. Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.

For all who are wounded, we pray they find healing.

For all who have died, we pray they find rest.

For all who grieve, we pray they find comfort.

For leaders on all sides, we pray for a renewed will to lay down arms, for the strength to put the grievances and wrongs suffered by their people to rest, and for the conviction to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all of your children.

God of mercy, help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection, no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.

God of justice, we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and that a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail.

We ask all this in the name of your Son, Jesus. **Amen.**

Silence – starts and ends with the ringing a bell

In silence, imagine a state of peace.

What does it look like? What does it feel like?

Bible Reading

Isaiah 2: 2-4

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of

Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Music *As you are able, this is an opportunity to light a votive candle for peace.*

A Litany For Peace In Troubled Times

God the Father,

have mercy on us.

God the Son,

have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us.

Holy and blessed Trinity, one God,

have mercy on us.

In these days of trouble, fear and sorrow,

have mercy on us.

In our despair at the violence that seems to fill the world,

have mercy on us.

In the pain of lost life and shattered hopes,

have mercy on us.

In our grieving for those who have died,

have mercy on us.

In our compassion for all who are bereaved,

have mercy on us.

From the history of violence that corrupts every society and our own,

O Lord, deliver us.

From the greed and injustice that divide the world into rich and poor,

O Lord, deliver us.

From the urge for revenge that adds to the cycle of violence,

O Lord, deliver us.

From the fear that grows into hatred for people who are different,

O Lord, deliver us.

From being too quick to attribute blame and demand retribution,

O Lord, deliver us.

From believing ourselves safe through anything other than your grace,
O Lord, deliver us.

For those who plan and carry out acts of violence,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who seek justice and ensure the rule of law,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the victims of war and terrorism everywhere on earth,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who live in fear, and for refugees from violent regimes,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For courage to resist demonizing and dehumanizing others,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For wisdom in choosing the paths of peace,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For solidarity with the suffering of the dispossessed,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For generosity in sharing fairly the world's resources,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For respect in conversation with people of other faiths, and none,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For honesty in knowing and confessing the sin in our own hearts,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For grace to change and be changed as you forgive us,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For rescue workers and medical teams treating those injured in conflict zones,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For aid agencies and their workers, responding with practical care in dangerous places,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of all the nations, looking for ways to work together beyond fear and suspicion,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For people of goodwill, responding generously to the needs of suffering communities,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have friends and family involved in areas of conflict and

disaster,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For communities that are terrified by missiles, snipers, vigilantes or death squads,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the vulnerable and defenseless in conflict zones, for the children, the elderly, the disabled, the sick:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christ to bring all the peoples of the world into one flock with one shepherd,

we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to bring healing and comfort for those we love who are sick or in mourning,

we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to lead us into the paths of peace, writing the law of love on our hearts,

we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to bring us, with all who have died in faith, to a joyful resurrection,

we pray to you, O God.

God of all peace, have mercy on our broken and divided world, and on your people who cry out to you for healing, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bible Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

Reader

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Silence – starts and ends with the ringing a bell

In silence, think about some of the ways we can be peacemakers.

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, we give you thanks, because you have anointed your Son as the Messiah, the light of the nations, and revealed him as the hope of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

Living God, Source of light, hope of nations, friend of sinners, builder of the city that is to come: your love is made visible in Jesus Christ, you bring home the lost, restore the sinner and give dignity to the despised.

In the face of Jesus Christ your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one a divided and broken humanity. With people from every race and nation, with the Church of all the ages, with apostles, evangelists and martyrs, we join the angels of heaven in their unending song: Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Amen.

The Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Music



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