



## AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

*compiled by Michael Winter Local Preacher &  
Anglican Lay Minister*

The United Nations encourages the observance of 21st September as the International Day of Peace and the Methodist Church, following the lead of the World Council of Churches, observes this on the Sunday before or after 21st September.

### **Verses from Psalm 85**

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what God the Lord says;

He promises peace to His people, His faithful servants,

but let them not turn to folly. Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him,  
that His glory may dwell in our land.

### **Prayers of Confession**

God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine vengeance upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to repent, and make us whole. Amen. \*

*Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city.*

*On our nation: Lord, have mercy.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division, jealousy and bitterness.*

*On us: Christ, have mercy.*

***Christ, have mercy.***

*Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.*

*Grant us peace: Lord, have mercy.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.

Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in so many places across the globe.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace. In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## Hymn STF 328

1] Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Doth his successive journeys run;  
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2] For Him shall endless prayer be made.  
And praises throng to crown His head,  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.

## Prayers

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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.**

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**

## The Lord's Prayer

### Reading: James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every

3] People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.

4] Blessings abound where'er He reigns:  
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who are in want are blest.

5] Let every creature rise and bring  
Its grateful honours to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

### Hymn STF 706

1] Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

2] Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Christ be our light .....*

3] Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

*Christ be our light .....*

### Reflection

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14: 27)

What does the word "peace" mean to you? The absence of war for sure. We look out from the relative peace of our own land, summer riots notwithstanding, to a war-torn world and it is easy to see peace as the primary concern of others, those who negotiate, those who fight, those whose lives are ripped apart. But our reading from James brings it all firmly much nearer home. Read those verses again and see how James is pointing to individual selfishness as the source of the anger that can burst out and escalate. Earlier in the book of James we read "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." (1 v19) For me this is one of those verses in scripture which shout out and grab attention in a disturbing way. And I dare say I'm not alone. Why? Because many of us, myself included, are fond of the sound of our own voice, have opinions and on occasion are inclined to express them angrily. We might try to convince ourselves that we are expressing righteous anger and sometimes that may be so but, let's be honest, we are much more likely to be angered over things that affect us personally. Oh those petty irritations of life that

4] Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

*Christ be our light .....*

5] Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

*Christ be our light .....*

*Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)*

can lead us to sound off, often to those nearest and dearest; the politicians and celebrities who infuriate us; the car drivers we encounter who really should read their Highway code again! The list is potentially endless. And personal angers are sometimes magnified and spill over into warfare and riots, intolerance and racism. James's injunction to listen more than to speak and to be slow to speak, is profoundly counter-cultural in a world where self-expression, as opposed to self-control, and individuality, as opposed to collective responsibility, are lauded. Anger starts with individuals and we need to guard against that in our daily lives, because unchecked it may lead to fractious families, disputes with neighbours and, if unleashed more widely, societal breakdown. I wonder what you think Jesus meant when he said "my peace I leave with you" before he died – speaking to his friends who would be scattered, afraid, bereaved and persecuted? Spend a few minutes thinking about peace not so much as an absence of war, or noise, or chaos, but as the presence of God in the middle of all the things that trouble us. The Hebrew word for peace is "shalom" which carries a sense of wholeness and well-being in all areas of life. A sense of wholeness and completeness that comes from being a child of God, loved and precious, and held through the storms of life.

### **The Collect for Peace**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Hymn STF 696**

1] 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.

2] Lead us, Father, into freedom,  
From despair the world release;  
That, redeemed from war and hatred,  
Men may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
Fear will die and hope increase.

3] All that kills abundant living,  
Let it from the earth be banned;  
Pride of status, race or schooling,  
Dogmas keeping man from man.  
In our common quest for justice  
May we hallow life's brief span.

4] You Creator-God have written  
Your great Name on all mankind;  
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 Kann (1929-2009)*

### **Prayer of Blessing**

May the peace of God enfold us, The love of God uphold us, The wisdom of God control us. And may the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit rest and abide with us for evermore. Amen

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*\* Prayer of confession Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.*