

SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER, 2020



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

THEME – “SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES”

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

We gather on the land of the Dharuk and Burrattagal people and so we pay our respects to their elders - past, present and emerging - and we commit ourselves to continuing the journey of reconciliation.

At the entrance to our church are the words

“May peace prevail on Earth.”

We are located in the midst of the multicultural city of Blacktown – This is the home of people who have come from all over the world. This diversity is reflected in our congregation and we are committed to being a community of peace.

Today we celebrate the International Day of Peace sponsored by the United Nations. It is held on September 21 every year.

WELCOME

Ni sa bula

Faka alofa atu

Talofa Lava

Mabuhay

Murabak

Kudual

Kia orana

Vanakkam

Ayubowan

Namaste

Malo e lelei

Kiora

Ni hao

Anyong Ha seyo - welcome

Come in as we worship God and pray for peace

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

You may like to light a candle in your home as we light the Christ candle

We light this candle to remind us that Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, is in our midst even when we cannot be physically present with one another.

SONG: BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace -
No work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: David Evans

Be Still lyrics © Thank You Music Ltd.

GREETINGS

The peace of the Lord be with you!

Let's hear greetings from some of our community in their own languages

Tongan

Ke 'iate kimoutolu ma'u ai pe 'a e nonga 'a e 'Eikí.

Samoan

Ia Faatasi atu le filemu o I Atua ma outou.

Fijian

Me nomuni na loloma levu kei na

Fijian Hindi

I su Masi ka nameskararp subksa ho!

Niuean

Kia fakamonuina mai he Atua a tautolu oti

Sinhalese

Samindunge Samaya oba sama dena samagai

Tamil

Andavarin Samadanum ungal annaivorodum erupathaha

May the peace of the Lord be with you all

And also with you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have greeted each other in Peace and as people of faith and citizens of this land and of the world, peace is our deepest desire – peace for our hearts, peace for our land and peace for all the world.

Yet in the world there is no peace and so we bring our Prayer of Confession to God, the One who alone can bring peace that endures.

God of peace and love,
in your hands are all the people of this world:
One flesh, one blood, created by you.
And yet we look around and we see a world
divided and suspicious and afraid.
You alone, O God, can curb the passions
that take us from you and turn us upon each other.

Be with us now and hear our prayer.
Forgive us for participating in that which turns people against each other;
for fuelling anger and harbouring vengeance,
for not sharing the bounty of our land with each other
and for not heeding your call to love one another.

Open our eyes and help us to see the world around us as you see it.
Open our ears to hear each other's story.
Open our eyes and ears and our hearts to your truth.

As we seek justice, make us just.
As we seek forgiveness, help us to forgive.
Renew us in faith, Lord, and grant us peace Amen.

Jesus said from the cross: *Father forgive them* Jesus promised: *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)

BIBLE READING: Isaiah 2:1-4

1. The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

SERMON: Rev Dr Rob McFarlane



Swords into Plowshares

SONG: TiS No. 607 MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

*Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring
hope
Where there is darkness, let me bring your
light
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek

Make me a channel of your peace
It is pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving of ourselves that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

Based upon an anonymous prayer

Adapted by Johann Sebastian Templehoff 1928-

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

As we bring our prayers, we light the peace candle



Peace is having the things we need to stay alive

We light this candle as we pray for generosity for those who do not have enough food, clean water, medicines, and a place to live and thrive



Peace is not being afraid.

We light this candle as we pray for a safe place for those who suffer violence and abuse in their home, in the workplace, in the streets, in their nation



Peace is belonging and being welcomed

We light this candle as we pray for acceptance and justice for those who are rejected or excluded because of the colour of their skin, their culture, their gender, their religion, their age, their sexuality, or their disability.



Peace is having hope

We light this candle as we pray for hope for those who see no light in their darkness; who search the sky for rain clouds; who see the seas rising around their islands; and who cry out for justice and only hear silence.



Peace is dignity and respect

We light this candle as we pray for respect in relationships between men and women, for aged folk especially in the midst of this pandemic; for refugees in camps and detention centers; those who are enslaved or exploited; and for plants and animals losing their habitat



Peace is listening to each other and sharing our joy and our pain.

We light this candle as we pray for the indigenous people of this land and our national journey to healing. We pray for Israeli and Palestinian families torn apart by old hatreds and conflicts. We pray for Sri Lanka, Mali, the Middle East, Belarus, Hong Kong and all places where there is seemingly intractable conflict. May we all beat our swords into ploughshares as we use our creativity in life-giving ways.



We live in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic and climate change

We light this candle as we pray that this pandemic and changing climate will not be used to divide us but that we will work together.

We also pray for those who have suffered hurricane, typhoon, drought, flooding and wild fires including the people of the west coast of the United States.



Peace is something that lives and grows and needs to be tended.

We light this candle with the prayer that leaders of nations will act with wisdom, courage, compassion and a vision of the world working together.

We pray on this International Day of Peace for all who work for peace and justice including the United Nations, the World Council of Churches, the Uniting Church and Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue.



Peace begins between us and within us.

We light this candle as we bring to God those things in our own selves that trouble and disturb us and those relationships in our lives that need forgiveness and healing.



Finally, we light this candle one year on from the opening of our Community Garden giving thanks and praying that it will continue to bring people together and be fruitful. We pray that we the congregation at Blacktown Uniting Church may faithfully shine the light of Christ – the light of peace - in our community.



Gracious God

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust,

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen!

SONG: Let there be peace on earth

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 sisters are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony

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, 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 breath 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

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every breath 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

Jill Jackson | Sy Miller

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DEDICATION OF OFFERING

*As an expression of thanks for all God's goodness I invite you to hold your offering
- or a symbol of it - cupped in your hands.*

Gracious and Generous God, may there be peace on earth and let it begin with us. Bless these gifts which we bring and bless us to be men and women and youth and children who give life to peace in our community. Amen

BLESSING/SENDING FORTH

The risen Lord Jesus Christ said: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all,
now and evermore.

Amen.

Ko e Kelesi 'a e Eiki ko Sisu Kalaisi, mo e 'ofa 'a e 'Otua, mo e feohi 'o e Laumalie Ma'oni'oni, ke 'iate kitautolu kotoa pe ia, 'o ta'engata.

'Emeni.

SONG: WE SHALL GO OUT (Tune: Londonderry Air)

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.

June Boyce-Tillman
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