



FINDING A STILL CENTRE

In the midst of our busy lives
A quiet place in the heart of our community
March 4th 2018

The Passion of God: A Vision for Peace and Justice

Music on arrival: Karl Jenkins The Armed Man (A Mass for Peace) X11: Benedictus

Leader:

Oh God, as we gather

Make our hearts abodes of peace, and our minds harbours of tranquility. Sow in our souls true love for you and for one another; root deeply within us friendship and unity; concord with reverence; that we may give peace to all and receive thankfully.

**We light these candles
as symbols of peace-
pure white and red, reflected
in still water
a symbol of unity
as each of us, by coming
has brought light into this place.**

(Adapted from 'Prayers and Poems for Peace'-International Day of Peace 2008)



Videohive.net

Responsory Prayer:

Leader: Lord, we pray

**for the power to be gentle;
the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right.**

Leader: Lord help us

**to put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil,
and the power of love to overcome hatred.**

Leader: Lord we pray

**for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world freed from violence,
a new world where fear shall no longer lead people to commit injustice,
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.**

Leader: Lord help us

to devote our lives and thoughts and energies to the task of making peace.

'Prayers and Poems for Peace' – Week of prayer for World Peace 1978

Lectio Divina: Micah ch 4 vv 2b -4 (NRSV)

“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 many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; 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; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Centering Prayer and time of silence

Music for meditation: Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto for Oboe and Cello in G Minor, RV 812: Largo Cantabile

Closing Prayer:

Leader: The flame, now extinguished
releases candle-smoke
weaving
rising
spreading
taking thoughts of love, goodwill, justice
to the nations-
the earth and all its peoples
crying out for peace.

**This day, hearts high in hope
we dare to dream, do all in our power
and higher power, for peace.**



adventbirmingham.org

Closing blessing:

May God bless us with **discomfort** at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with **anger** at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with **tears** to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough **foolishness** to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

"A Franciscan blessing" from aheartforjustice.com



Fast-growing-trees.com

“We find these two concerns justice and peace, brought together in this marvellous passage in Micah. At the very end of that passage Micah adds: “They shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees” (4:4). It’s an image of everybody having their own land and sitting under their own vines, their own fig trees. This isn’t about subsistence, this isn’t about a meagre amount of bread but vines and fig trees. Gourmet food! My point is, God’s dream for a world of peace is a world in which everybody has what they need for a good life. Then the last phrase of the Micah passage: “And no one shall make them afraid.” I can’t resist the footnote that we live in a culture that plays the fear card again, and again, and again.” *Marcus Borg; ‘Days of Awe and Wonder’ p167 (slightly abbreviated)*