

## SEEDS OF PEACE

### Overcoming International Violence Worship Materials



#### Light overcoming darkness

Remember the words of Martin Luther King –  
*'Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.'*

Let each person light a candle with a petition for a particular place or people in our wider world...

May these lights be signs of hope and peace in a troubled world. As they light up our worship, so may the light of Christ shine in every darkness, casting out the evil and oppression of broken nations, and shedding the healing and compassion of his Shalom.

God of hope and healing,  
beyond the terrors of tyranny and tsunami  
lies your transfiguring grace, a new dreaming of love and peace.  
Grant us a greater depth of relationship with one another,  
strength to work for justice, peace and the integrity of all creation,  
and joy to share in your eternal presence.

In Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

(DOV in Australia prayer for Asia 2005)

Leader: Trusting in your mercy, Lord, we pray:  
that people everywhere may reject the use of nuclear weapons and the  
threat of them

*Response: God of Peace, hear our Prayer*

Leader: that peace negotiators may discern the ways of peace and meet as fellow  
human beings rather than as enemies.

*Response: God of Peace, hear our Prayer*

Leader: that governments may turn from warlike plays of power to service in the  
welfare of our common humanity.

*Response: God of Peace, hear our Prayer*

Leader: that the strategists of defence may be freed from the passion to punish and  
take revenge.

*Response: God of Peace, hear our Prayer*

Leader: that we all may learn what it means to love those who are regarded  
as our enemies .

*Response: God of Peace, hear our Prayer* (from a Palm Sunday Peace service, Sydney)

For World Community

God our Father: in Jesus Christ you have ordered us to live as loving neighbours.  
Though we are scattered in different places, speak different words, or descend from  
different races, teach us compassion, so that we may be one people, who share the  
governing of the world under your guiding purpose.  
May greed, war, and lust for power be curbed,  
and all people enter the community of love promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## SEEDS OF PEACE

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 is right.  
May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil  
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe  
in a world emancipated from violence,  
a new world where fear shall no longer lead people to commit injustice,  
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.  
Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace,  
praying always for the inspiration and the power  
to fulfil the destiny for which we and all people were created.

(Week of Prayer for the World, 1978)

O God, save our shores from the weapons of death,  
our lands from the things that deny our young ones love and freedom.  
Let the seas of the Pacific Ocean carry messages of peace and good will.  
Turn away from our midst any unkind and brutal practices.  
Let each child swim and breathe the fresh air that is filled by the Holy Spirit.  
O Lord Jesus, bless all who are makers of that inner peace that breaks down the barriers  
of hatred, and unite us with the open arms of your cross,  
that all the peoples of the world may live happily together.  
(Amanuka Havea, Tonga)

### **Benediction**

May God bless you with Discomfort  
at Easy Answers, Half-Truths, and Superficial Relationships,  
so that you may live Deep Within Your Heart.

May God bless you with Anger  
at Injustice, Oppression, and Exploitation of People,  
so that you may work for Justice, Freedom, and Peace.

May God bless you with Tears to shed  
for those who suffer from Pain, Rejection, Starvation, and War,  
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their Pain into Joy.  
And may God bless you with enough Foolishness  
to Believe that You can Make a Difference in this World,  
so that You can DO what others claim cannot be Done.

and  
God of hope,  
be with the leaders  
of the world  
as they make  
decisions  
in these fragile  
times.  
(Peter Millar)

**Suggested Song:**  
(from *Whispers of Peace*)

Robin Mann *How the World Was Won*