

**Transformation – NOW!
REMEMBRANCE**

Opening prayer

Merciful God, your love embraces all of creation.
Your realm knows nothing of the borders
we draw between nations.
You have taught us that every woman, man and child
is our neighbour.
You have commanded us to love,
without thought of our own security, or glory, or gain.

Remind us that you have pronounced your blessing,
not upon nations and armies,
but upon the poor, and the meek, and the peacemakers

Cara Heafey, worshipwords.co.uk

Hymn: O God, our help in ages past

Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin in the Fields

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Bible Reading: James 3: 13-18

If you are wise, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don't brag about them, then you will be truly wise! And by all means don't brag about being wise and good if you are bitter and jealous and selfish; that is the worst sort of lie. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, inspired by the devil. For wherever there is jealousy or selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every other kind of evil. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure and full of quiet gentleness. Then it is peace-loving and courteous. It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others; it is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.

Reflection

November pierces with its black remembrance
Of all the bitterness and waste of war.
Our silence tries but fails to make a semblance
Of that lost peace they thought worth fighting for.
Our silence seethes instead with wraiths and whispers,
And all the restless rumours of new wars,
The shells are singing as we sing our vespers,
No moment is unscarred, there is no pause.

In every instant bloodied innocence
Falls to the weary earth, and whilst we stand
Quiescence ends again in acquiescence,
And Abel's blood still cries in every land.
One silence only might redeem that blood
Only the silence of a dying God.

Malcolm Guite

Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace

sung by Katherine Jenkins

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

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

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
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born into eternal life

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, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy
And where there's sadness ever joy

Jon Cohen

Prayers

God of all creation,
Open our hearts and eyes
so that we might see
the face of our adversary,
and recognize, as you do,
that they are our sister, our brother.

God of Justice,
You call us to live in truth.
Give us the strength
to admit our past transgressions,
and to build new partnerships
with old enemies.

God of Peace,
You call us to love our enemies.
Give us the wisdom to translate
that love into a choice for
dialogue over demonization,
diplomacy over military confrontation.

God of Nonviolence,
lead us on your path to peace
that we might walk humbly with you.

We ask this in the name of the One
whose peace we seek, Jesus the Christ,
who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.
Amen.

written by Dave Robinson

Mary Sumner Prayer

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. **Amen.**

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Hymn: May the mind of Christ my Saviour

sung by The Scottish Festival Singers

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.

May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

*Kate Barclay Wilkinson, published 1925
Tune: St Leonard composed by Cyril Barham-Gould*

Reflective prayer

For those involved in conflicts -

The innocent

The guilty

The injured

Orphaned

Widowed

Politicians

Peacemakers

Relief workers

For those involved in conflicts -

Bring comfort

Compassion

Sustenance

Repentance

Forgiveness

Healing

Tears

Love

And a peace that can endure

© *John Birch*

Blessing

Jesus taught us, “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

May God grant you the vision, strength, and courage
to proclaim God’s message of peace
whether welcome or unwelcome,
for the sake of God’s beloved children.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

from Christian Worship Resources for the Children’s Sabbath

Choral music: The Church of England St Martin in the Fields
Material: as stated
Theme music: Catherine Hilton
Theme image: Aarn Giri on Unsplash.com
Backgrounds: all from Pixabay.com
Readers: Barbara Hindle, Kirsten Rutherford, Dan Lloyd, Sandra
Bradshaw, Christine Faulkner, Ruth Taylor, Jenni
Beaumont

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**Thursday Prayers next month will be on
8th December – Advent**