

When we tell ourselves that we have given all we can to bring peace to this world,  
help us to remember your sacrifice ...  
and give us the miracle of losing a little more of ourselves  
in serving you and our neighbors.

Walk with us, Lord, as we answer your call to be peacemakers.  
Increase our compassion, our generosity and our hospitality  
for the least of your children.

Give us the courage, the patience, the serenity,  
the self-honesty and the gentleness of spirit that are needed  
in a world filled with turmoil and terror. Amen.

*~ written by Jack Knox, pastor of Salem (Oregon) Mennonite Church*

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### AND IN THE END

1. Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.  
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.
2. Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet.  
Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.
3. Light before us, light behind us, light under our feet.  
Light within us, light over us, let all around us be light.
4. Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.  
Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.
5. Alleluia.

## Put Peace into each other's hands

### Worship for the South Rivers Deanery

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Thursday, Nov 10, 2016

#### GATHERING

Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it;  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands,  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.

As at communion, shape your hands  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands,  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance  
and share it like a treasure.

#### DIALOGUE

Leader As we remember, as we reflect on the events of the past few days, as we  
imagine the future together

**All We admit our concern, our confusion, our feeling of powerlessness**

Leader As people of faith, and followers of Jesus, we invite your healing and hopeful  
touch O God

**All Especially remembering all those who are oppressed, marginalized, humiliated,  
despised and rejected**

Leader We know O Jesus you have walked this path long before us, always with faith, strength and courage

**All We seek these for ourselves and for all people and creation. Amen and Amen.**

Leader We share together these words, written by William Ernest Henley and taken up later by Nelson Mandela amongst others

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
**I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.**

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
**Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.**

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
**And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.**

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
**I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.**

#### A READING FROM ROMANS (8:18-28)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in [o] hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes [q] with sighs too deep for

words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

#### THOMAS MERTON

At the root of all war is fear: not so much the fear that people have of one another as the fear they have of everything. It is not merely that they do not trust one another; they do not even trust themselves. ... They cannot trust anything because they have ceased to believe in God.

#### CONVERSATION

#### LITANY

Gracious Lord, we dream of a world free of poverty and oppression, and we yearn for a world free of vengeance and violence. we pray for your peace.

When our hearts ache for the victims of war and oppression, help us to remember that you healed people simply by touching them ... and give us faith in our ability to comfort and heal bodies and minds and spirits that have been broken by violence.

When the injustice of this world seems too much for us to handle, help us to remember that you fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish..., and give us hope that what we have to offer will turn out to be enough, too.

When fear of the power and opinions of others tempts us not to speak up for the least among us, help us to remember that you dared to turn over the tables of money changers ... give us the courage to risk following you without counting the cost.

When we fill with anger at those who are violent and oppressive, help us remember that you prayed for those who killed you ... and give us compassion for our enemies, too.