

Prayer Space N° 26

Lent March 2022

### ***Opening Prayer***

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship  
for the freedom to be amongst your family  
meeting together in your house

and in the warmth of your embrace

Thank you that in worship we can put aside

the uncertainties of this world and rest

upon the certainties of the Kingdom

for your promises are not changeable

as those of a politician might be

but immovable and eternal

Thank you that we can bring to your feet

all the hurts and fears that trouble us

and leave them there

knowing that your strength and assurance

are all that we require

Thank you that as we draw near in worship

we are transported

from a world of concerns and fears

to a place where we can be at peace in your presence

find healing, wholeness and refreshment.

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship

### ***A Psalm***

verses from Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation

whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life

of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,

when my enemies and my foes attack me,

they will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;

be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Prayer for peace in Ukraine

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy. Amen

For the healing of the nations,

Lord, we pray with one accord;

for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.

To a life of love in action

help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;

that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

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## **Reading - Luke 13:31-35 - Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem**

<sup>31</sup> At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

<sup>32</sup> He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' <sup>33</sup> In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!"

<sup>34</sup> "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

<sup>35</sup> Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'<sup>1</sup>

God of Love, God of Peace  
This fractured word  
Cries out in pain  
Burns deep into my soul  
And challenges me  
To make a difference  
God of Love, God of Peace  
God of this world  
Scarred by grief and tears  
Ignorance and fear  
Soften hearts of stone  
And begin with mine  
God of Love, God of Peace  
Create within me  
A heart for people  
A desire for change  
For new beginnings  
To start this day

### ***Affirmation***

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
And a generosity of service  
That gives without counting cost

A life overflowing with Grace  
Poured out from the One  
Who gave everything  
That we might show  
The power of love  
To a broken world  
And share the truth  
From a living Word  
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
And a yearning to share it