



Galaxies
Evening Service
3 September 2006
Service by Pete Cowley



Welcome:

Welcome to our service tonight.



Our theme tonight is looking at Peace. On the 21st of this Month is the International Day of Peace which falls in the middle of the UN's Peace Week (Sept 17-24) and which is part of the UN's Decade to overcome Violence



Call to togetherness:

Leader: We are all part of the rhythm of life.
As we mark this day of the journey, may peace be with us.

People: **May we be makers of the peace.**

Leader Where there is confusion and discord,
People **We will use loving-kindness as a way through.**

Leader: Where there is coldness and indifference,
People: **We will use the fire of our love to warm the coldness, to light fires of love and banish indifference.**

Leader: Where there is injustice and discrimination
People: **We will challenge it, we will speak out, we will do to ease the fear.**

Leader: Where there is joy and hope,
People: **We will celebrate and share it together.**

Leader: Let us greet one another in love and peace as we mark Peace Week and International Day of Peace this month.
People: **Before God and one another we stand in peace beside our fellow travelers in life. We listen to each other's stories and share each other's journey that we may understand each other deeply, lovingly and become friends. Amen**

Contemporary Hymn

You're the voice (John Farnham)

Affirmation of Faith

I give thanks for life and put my trust in all its possibilities for good ... For my good, for the good of those whose lives mine touches, for all people, and for the earth itself;

I celebrate the honest search for meaning, for purpose, for truth and wholeness shown by people of faith through the ages, and join them in the quest;

I recognise in Jesus a man of integrity, insight and vision who continually challenges my willingness to settle for too little, both in myself, and in the world around me;

I find in the Christ of faith a source of strength and wholeness, an inspiration to new beginnings, and a spur to be all I am capable of;

I affirm the communities of trust, love and endeavour of those who, from time immemorial, have shared in the search, and who, with me, have felt our imagination quickened, our creativity fired, the boundaries of our understanding and empathy extended;

In these ways, and in the dynamic of their inter-linking I experience that which I call God
And in God I put my trust,

Now and into the future

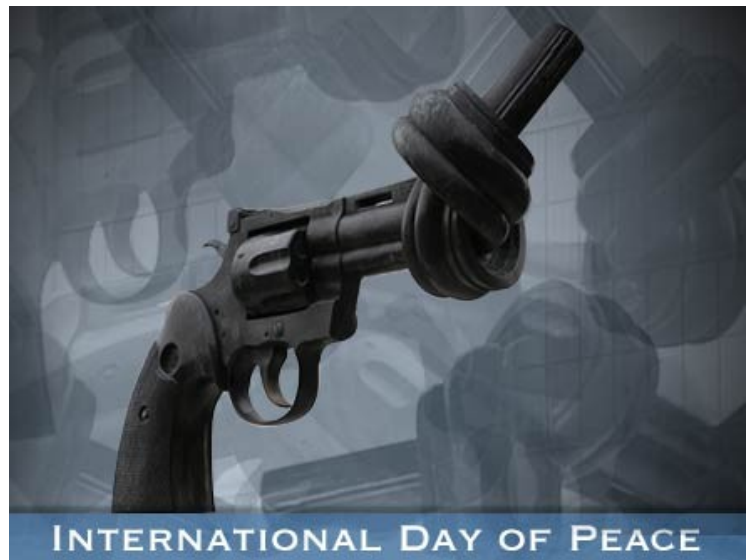
Amen

(by Ian Harris)

Contemporary Reflection

Contemporary Hymn of Peace

Give Peace a Chance (John Lennon)



Prayers for peace



May we be filled with the strength to seek peace.
War will not end when the guns are silent.
Violence can never lead to peace.
May we be filled with the courage to seek peace.
We grieve for the harm to our own country,
The degradation suffered here and in Iraq,
The contagion of fear and distrust,
The restriction of freedoms,
The quashing of dialogue and dissent.
We grieve the terrible wounding
of those sent off to fight in a war
that is questioned all over the world.
We grieve the rupture of families here and in Iraq.
May we be filled with the compassion to seek peace
We are members of one human family.
We grasp the horror of war in all its forms.
And we struggle to embrace the suffering of all
with love and compassion.
May we be filled with the endurance to seek peace
Recognizing our weakness,
We call on the God of mercy and compassion
to guide us in the days ahead
May we be filled with the vision of peace.

(From the Fellowship of Reconciliation Interfaith Prayer)

Individual prayers from the people gathered

Passing the Peace

Leader:

Let us share our peace and love

Let us feel the power of the earth that holds us together.

Let us celebrate our gifts in song and dance.

Let us all rejoice in our power and our beauty.

People:

We open our hearts to the miracle of birth and the mystery of God's love in all creation.

We carry in us the divine light that shone so brightly the night of Christ's birth.

The gift of love, which we share tonight, deepens us as people, deepens us
as sisters and brothers.

People share the peace with those around them.



Offering Prayer and dedication

People: At this time and in this place
may our inner replenishment
make us more alive to life's moments
and more responsive to life's creative possibilities.
And let the offerings and the gifts we place on this table
be a sign of our gratitude, and a sign of our hope
for life and the world. Amen.

Offertory Hymn (Contemporary)

From a distance (Cliff Richard) (Offering plate passed around during the hymn)

Leader: We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table and those given to support
the mission of Galaxies.

The Lord's Prayer - Jim Cotter

People: Eternal Spirit Life-giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be.



Peace Hearts

Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

Charge our lives and our churches with the power of your peace, O God. Overcome our fears and self-deceptions with the promise of your presence. Make us signs of your generosity and justice. Light us each day with hope, we pray, so that we may walk in your truth and be love in your name. Amen

Departure Hymn (Contemporary)

Imagine (John Lennon)

Notices

