

Nonviolent Guidelines for the Procession and Liturgy

We take this action in a spirit of openness and nonviolence. To create an atmosphere of confidence and security for *all* those involved - and to communicate a clear, strong message to the public and the police, we invite you to be nonviolent in word and deed throughout this action.

Please read and note

- Show respect for all people we encounter.
- Take care that you do not endanger yourself or others when crossing roads, and keeping pathways clear for those passing by.
- Engage only in the scenarios set out in the Liturgy booklet

Our liturgy and witness today is undertaken in respectful opposition to the MoD's preparations for the deployment of weapons of mass destruction. We have never sought permission from the police to engage in the act of prayer and resistance which has taken place here every year since 1982. The police know of this act of prayer and witness. They have warned us that the MOD is on high alert and that there will be armed police among their number.

Members of CCND and Pax Christi will give guidance and further warnings if required.

Organised by:

Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY
www.paxchristi.org.uk

Christian CND, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ
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Ash Wednesday

Christian Witness and Resistance - London



Please read this before the Liturgy begins. The sponsoring organisations have agreed to guidelines for this action for all taking part. **See guidelines of back page**

The police have informed us that some of their number will be armed but in the background - they are on high alert. Others will be with us as we cross the road.

Welcome & introduction, *Pax Christi*

Call to worship

V1. To keep Lent is to confront the principalities and powers first of all in prayer. With Jesus we face the dark side of ourselves - this is so susceptible to capture and control by the powers. If it happens that we keep vigil publicly at the gates of economic, military, political or religious authority, we do so as an act of repentance, acknowledging the solidarity of sin.

Prayer:

V2. Brother Christ, help us to follow you, deep into the waters of baptism, to put to death past wrongs, and to face the coming of God's kingdom

R/ Jesus, our brother, help us to follow you.

V2. Help us to follow your ministry of healing and restoration, so that we may work with you to cast out the forces of greed resentment, hatred and fear.

R/ Jesus, our brother, help us to follow you.

V2. Help us to follow you into the desert, to fast with you, denying false values, refusing the ways of self-indulgence

R/ Jesus, our brother, help us to follow you.

V2. Help us to follow you even to the cross, to seek our hope in your self-giving love, and to die to all that is not born of love.

R/ Jesus, our brother, help us to follow you.

Call to repentance

V1: Rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God,

All: For the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

V1: Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,

All: With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. Amen.

Silence

Reading: Matthew 6:1-6,16.18

What more you can do

- Share the experience of today with friends, family and your church community.
- 8 March, Pax Christi postcard project : Women thank Pope Francis for his leadership on peace, disarmament and nonviolence
- 20 March. Join CCND for their Embassies Walk. Check website for details
- 1 April: Easter Sunday. Gathering at Aldermaston including Vigil, speakers, tying of doves to the fences, and more. Details from CCND
- 15 May, International Conscientious Objector Day
- Keep in touch with the organising groups to find out about more actions, meetings and campaigning opportunities.

Final song:



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe-ly live,



a place where saints and chil-dren tell how hearts learn to for-give.



Built of hopes and dreams and vi-sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;



here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions, All are wel - come,



all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God through Jesus
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to
rafter:

Marty Haugen

Planting hope: As you leave we invite you to take a sunflower seed to plant, here in this area or at home. The sunflower is a symbol of a nuclear weapon free world.

Blessing of water

L. All God's creation is holy. This water is already holy, but we ask God our Father to bless it for its special use today.

All: Lord God Almighty, Creator of all life, we ask you to bless this water as we use it in faith. Forgive our sins and save us from the power of evil. Amen

Blessing ash & charcoal

Those who have prepared to mark the building come forward with charcoal. The ash and charcoal we will use today are blessed with holy water

L. Dear friends in Christ, let us ask God to bless this charcoal and ash, which we will use as a mark of our repentance.

Holy and immortal God, you do not desire the death of sinners, but rather that we should repent of our sins and live. Bless this charcoal and ash, that it may be for us a sign of repentance, and a mark of your salvation through Christ, who died for us and rose from the ashes of death to bring us eternal life. Amen

Act of Penitence

L: From the dust of the earth we were created.

All: To the dust we shall return

L: Through our sins, we have destroyed and squandered the resources of the earth.

All: May our repentance gather us into a new community, which cherishes the earth and all her people.

Representatives of the sponsoring groups use the ash to mark those present with a cross

Repent, and believe the Gospel.

Response: Amen

During the ashing we sing

Look around you - can you see
Look around you, can you see?
Times are troubled, people grieve.
See the violence, feel the hardness,
All my people, weep with me.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison

Walk among them, I'll go with you
Reach out to them with my hands
Suffer with me, and together
we will serve them, help them stand.

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison

Forgive us father, hear our prayer.
We'll walk with you, anywhere.
Through your suffering, with forgiveness
Take your life, into the world

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison

After the ashing

V1: Direct our hearts to better things, O Lord; heal our sin and ignorance.
Lord do not face us suddenly with death, but give us time to repent.

All: Turn to us with mercy, Lord; we have sinned against you and one another.

V1: We remember peacemakers of our time who encourage and inspire us, who remind us that we must put love into action.

Dismissal

All:

Loving God, inspired by your Holy Spirit, we go to the Ministry of Defence to worship, vigil, fast and pray. In undertaking this witness, we commit ourselves to act in a spirit of love and nonviolence, in the name of Christ. Amen.

The threat of their (nuclear weapon) use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned. For they exist in the service of a mentality of fear that affects not only the parties in conflict but the entire human race. International relations cannot be held captive to military force, mutual intimidation, and the parading of stockpiles of arms. Weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, create nothing but a false sense of security. They cannot constitute the basis for peaceful coexistence between members of the human family, which must rather be inspired by an ethics of solidarity.

Public Message from Faith Leaders on day of Nobel Peace Award to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons , December 2017

There is a need for creative political leadership to ensure that any attempt to justify the threat of mass destruction in any circumstance is wholly rejected. A world free of nuclear weapons achieved by building on established international norms is a global public good of the highest order. No country or government must allow itself to be left behind. Therefore, we call on the UK government to add its support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Final prayer

L: O God, the heavens are yours and the earth is yours. All our life belongs to you

All: Make us your messengers of peace and justice

L: May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

All: Make us your messengers of peace and justice

L: May all injustice, violence and oppression give way to justice, mercy and good will.

All: Make us your messengers of peace and justice

L: Teach us to use the many resources of the earth so that none may waste and none may want

All: Make us your messengers of peace and justice

L: We now offer one another and those us around a sign of peace as our last act of prayer.

We who are silent in the face of madness R/
When nuclear weapons are developed and deployed around the world R/
When monies are allocated to the development of new weapons R/
When world leaders threaten to use nuclear weapons in war R/
When our investments, our pension funds, are used to build weapons R/
When we still our consciences rather than speak out R/
When we hear hateful speech and do not object R/
When voices of belligerence escalate and put us all at odds with one another R/
When our children and grandchildren to the 7th generation are put at risk of extinction R/

Prayer action

A sheet of sack-cloth is place in front on the MoD building Please come forward and add ash to the REPENT outline.

We sing: Be still and know

Be still and know that I am God. (3 times)

I am the Lord that healeth thee. (3 times)

In thee, O Lord I put my trust. (3 times)

Silence: we hold out our hands towards the Ministry of Defence in a gesture of openness and supplication

Call and encouragement to change direction

Reading from statement of Pope Francis, November 2017

IMPORTANT

*We will walk in **silence** to Horseguards Avenue where we will cross into the lawn area for our procession. We will carry a range of messages on placards which reflect the powerful messages from faith communities and leaders on nuclear weapons*

The path of Lamentation - *London Catholic worker*

As you make your way to the second path to the rail along the side of the MoD please take a ribbon from the basket and continue to spread out along the rail. The ribbons represent the countries that have signed the Nuclear Ban Treaty and those who have yet to support the treaty. When everyone is standing we will tie the ribbons to the rail and then stand in silence

Lamentation and prayer action

Leader: As we stand before the Ministry of Defence, we call to mind the 122 countries who voted in favour of the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, and lament for the 73, including our own, who did not. With steadfast hope, we pray here for a conversion of heart:

All:

Oh God

Your light surrounds us,

Your love enfolds us, and

Your power protects us.

Grant us the wisdom and courage
to turn back to you,

to abolish nuclear weapons, and

to seek true security built on

justice, respect for human life,

and the protection of creation,

in accordance with your will

Amen

Song: x 5 times

Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.

We then move on to the front entrance of the Ministry of Defence. As we arrive we will arrange ourselves to face the building - leaving space behind for people to pass without obstruction. The word REPENT is outlined in ash

Repentance and change of heart - Christian CND

Together: Call us Lord Jesus to repent, to turn away from the culture of death and choose a culture of life. Give us the courage to speak and act against the logic of violence and militarism; nuclear weapons policies and the false peace they offer our world.

Reading: Joel Chapter 2

“But now, now - it is the Lord who speaks - come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning”.

Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn, turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent. Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent, will not leave a blessing as he passes, oblation and libation for the Lord your God?

Prayer reflection :

Possession of nuclear weapons is now unequivocally condemned by Pope Francis and many other Christian and religious leaders. Yet our nation holds them ready, a threat of unspeakable humanitarian crimes to be done on our behalf; and cannot think beyond outdated cold war deterrence policy. Are we ourselves thus enslaved by nuclear weapons, possessed by them, in so many ways?

Thousands of our best scientific minds are employed at Aldermaston

From wasting our national talent

O Lord deliver us

We are committed to spending £205 Billion on Trident

From robbing the poor through catastrophic waste **O Lord deliver us**

The Government itself promotes the benefits of employment on Trident (for jobs which will cost between £1 million and £10 million each!)

From the lie that we are economically dependent on Trident

O Lord deliver us

Is nuclear technology a part reason for following uneconomic nuclear energy projects?

From distortion of our country's energy policy

O Lord deliver us

To deploy nuclear weapons we are forced to a profound moral compromise, an inconsistency of thinking which enables us to contemplate the most appalling atrocities (directly or done on our behalf) while still contriving to live good lives.

From this inner moral conflict

O Lord deliver us

Our Government finds it must oppose opportunities for Multilateral Disarmament.

From being trapped in a transparently obvious hypocrisy. **O Lord deliver us**

Our Government ministers condemn the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

From shutting our minds to the Treaty

O Lord deliver us

Do we think we need a nuclear capability for our status in the world?

From ignorance and national pride

O Lord deliver us

From addiction to power

O Lord deliver us

From being on the wrong side of history

O Lord deliver us

Our Cross and messages are held high as we stand in silence and then pray

Litany - with response: *We repent and mourn and lift up our voices in resistance*