

but God who hears us pray  
 demands our clear decision:  
 Lord, give us ears to hear,  
 and wills to heed, your voice;  
 to yield no more to fear,  
 to make your path our choice.

Words: Christopher Idle

### Let us build a house

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*

### Prayers of intercession

*For the leaders of our communities, our church,  
 our country and our world,*  
 that they may take decisions that are in accord with God's commandments  
 that bring life, justice and peace.

#### **We pray to the Lord**

*For those who have died by acts of violence,*  
 that they may be raised with Christ who died for them and that they may know  
 the unending life and glory of the kingdom of peace and light.

#### **We pray to the Lord**

*For those who have survived violence,*  
 that they will be sheltered in the compassion of God and our community and  
 that, feeling the compassion of Jesus, they may find healing and hope.

#### **We pray to the Lord**

*For those who commit acts of violence against others,* that their hearts may be  
 moved by Christ's grace,  
 and that they may be transformed by the Spirit of love, peace and justice.

#### **We pray to the Lord**

*For ourselves,*  
 that we will work all together to end violence  
 and bring life, peace and security to our world.

#### **We pray to the Lord**

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**Prayers and readings for those who wish to be  
in solidarity with those taking part in the DSEI faith actions  
in London, September 2017.  
Please adapt and use as may be appropriate**

**Reading from the prophet Jeremiah: 14:17-21**

Let my eyes run down with tears night and day  
and let them not cease,  
for the virgin daughter of my people is smitten with a great wound, with a  
very grievous blow.

If I go out into the field, behold those slain by the sword!  
And if I enter the city, behold the diseases of famine!  
For both prophet and priest ply their trade through the land  
and have no knowledge.

Have you utterly rejected Judah?  
Does your soul loath Sion?  
Why have you smitten us so that there is no healing for us?

We looked for peace, but no good came;  
for a time of healing, but behold, terror.

We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord,  
and the iniquity of our ancestors,  
for we have sinned against you.

Do not spurn us for your name's sake,  
do not dishonour your glorious throne;  
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

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 brief life's span.

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.

**Words: Fred Kaan**

**O where shall peace be found (to the tune: Now thank we all our God)**

O where shall peace be found,  
and where an end to slaughter,  
all lands be holy ground,

all peoples free from murder?  
Where weapons are unmade  
the prophet's word comes true,  
and none shall be afraid  
when God makes all things new.

The mountain of the Lord  
shall rise above all others;  
in Christ we are restored  
as neighbours, sisters, brothers:  
our grey machines of death  
are turned to nobler use  
when over all the earth  
his kingdom is let loose.

We long to see the day  
when love completes that vision,

## **Pax Christi Interfaith Prayer for Peace**

O God, you are the source of life and peace.  
Praised be your name forever.  
We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace.  
Hear our prayer in this time of crisis.  
Your power changes hearts  
Muslims, Christians and Jews remember, and profoundly affirm,  
that they are followers of the one God,  
children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;  
Enemies begin to speak to one another;  
those who were estranged join hands in friendship;  
nations seek the way of peace together.  
Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these  
truths by the way we live.

### **Give to us:**

**Understanding** that puts an end to strife;  
**Mercy** that quenches hatred, and  
**Forgiveness** that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love. Amen

## **Songs that could be used**

### **For the healing of the nations** (*tune of Praise my soul*)

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.

Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.

## **Litany of Repentance : *Response:* Lord, Lead us to repentance**

- L: For questioning the authority of Jesus' teaching on the Cross
- L: For placing human standards above divine compassion, we pray...
- L: For the moral blindness of our military intention, we beg you...
- L: For trusting in instruments of death to save us rather than in the power of the Living God, we beseech you...
- L: For betraying Christ's love by allowing hunger and violence that claim lives daily, we implore you...

## **Pope Francis: prayer intention for June: challenge to the arms trade**

It is an absurd contradiction to speak of peace,  
to negotiate peace and at the same time  
promote or permit the arms trade.

Is this war or that war really a war to solve problems  
or is it a commercial war for selling weapons in illegal trade  
and so that the merchants of death get rich?

Let us put an end to this situation.

Let us pray all together that national leaders  
may firmly commit themselves  
to ending the arms trade which victimises  
so many innocent people

## What will it take to make peace?

### Side 1:

Peace takes walking  
So we walk  
When we feel defeated  
When we question whether we matter  
When we are just surviving  
When we wonder why we are doing this?  
When we want to find our own path

### Side 2:

Peace takes walking and so we walk  
And the rain falls and the wind blows  
And the sun burns our eyes with its heat  
And we feel our feet  
And our hearts beat  
And it is hard and we are slow  
And we don't know where to go  
And we see ourselves for the first time  
And we see each other for the first time  
And we see the land for the first time

### Together:

Peace takes walking and it takes time  
And we have time  
To hope and we are freed from limitations  
And it is a prayer  
And we walk from our daily lives  
Into different places and we heal the earth  
And we walk  
Together, alone with direction, with abandon  
Carefully, gently deliberately, with passion,  
until one day we find  
that we have walked home  
and there is peace

*by Laurie Pollack, from Nevada Desert Experience website*

## Prayer for peace

**Together:** Disarm our hearts, God of Peace;  
Help us renounce the fear  
that takes the form of weapons.

Help us choose the fierce love  
that moves your human family  
to dialogue, not destruction.

**Women:** Our children are fragile,  
As is our earth.  
give us the wisdom  
to cherish these gifts  
by voicing our support  
for a world free of war.

**Men:** Disarm our hearts, God of Peace;  
help us to embrace Your wisdom and Your will  
challenge us to choose life,  
not weapons of destruction.

**Together :** We pray for authentic and lasting peace,  
we pray for the will to bring this about  
so we may be called peacemakers,  
the children of God.  
In your name we pray for the end  
of the weapons of war. Amen