

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**

- Showing respect for all people we encounter.
- Taking care that you do not endanger yourself or others when crossing roads, and keeping pathways clear for those passing by.
- Engaging 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 are normally courteous, but under recent legislation may deem this an 'unauthorised protest'. If the police try to prevent our gathering, you will be given sufficient **warning to walk away and avoid arrest**. 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

www.ccnd.org.uk

London Catholic Worker, 49 Mattison Road, London N4 1BG

Ash Wednesday

18 February 2015

Commemorating 33 years of
Christian Witness and Resistance against
nuclear war preparations



Spending on nuclear weapons squanders the wealth of nations...when these resources are squandered, the poor and the weak living on the margins of society pay the price. .

Pope Francis, December 2014

Please read this before the Liturgy begins. The sponsoring organisations have agreed to guidelines for this action for all taking part. Those willing to risk arrest today are known to the sponsoring organisations, have prepared themselves through prayer and discussion, and have fully accepted the Guidelines. **See guidelines of back page**

If you **have not been part** of this preparation, we ask you to respect the process for this witness and not involve yourself in any civil disobedience activity.

Welcome & introduction from Pax Christi

Call to worship

L: 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.

All: Call us, Lord Jesus, to seek your way of peace and proclaim it to the nations. A peace that seeks security through love, justice, cooperation and respect. A peace that has as its ultimate security our trust in and love of God.

Call to repentance

L: 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.

L: 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

Prayer said together

In this Lenten season, O God, we come before you,
asking for courage to open our eyes.
We want to see ourselves as you see us: the empty and barren places,
the half-hearted struggles, the faint stirrings of new life.
We come, trusting your grace, waiting for your illuminating word,
longing for your healing light.
Do not let us be blind to your presence.
Shine upon us, O God, and make our paths clear,
For we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.
(Marlene Kropf)

Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16.18

2 March, Burghfield Lockdown @ AWE Burghfield, near Reading

Pax Christi is helping to coordinate a faith presence at this national event to peacefully disrupt government plans for the renewal of Trident. This will be at the north end of The Mearings, with a time of prayer during the morning. Full briefing pack available on our website or from the office.

13 April, Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Plan an event for Monday 13 April - the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Use imagination and humour to bring the skewed reality of global expenditure to public and press attention. Look out for GDAMS material available from Pax Christi and Campaign Against the Arms Trade. <http://demilitarize.org.uk/>

15 May, International Conscientious Objector Day

The annual ceremony in London will remember in particular those who opposed the Second World War (70th anniversary). On 9 August we will honour one of them: Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, the Austrian executed in 1943 for refusing to fight for Hitler. Find information for story-telling and liturgy on the Pax Christi website.
<http://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/peace-people-2/blessed-franz-jagerstatter/>

All year: Pax Christi is supporting Westminster Diocesan J&P commission and others with a programme of **Prayer and Fasting for Climate and a Pilgrimage for the Planet**. Vigils on the 1st of every month will take place in and around London until December. Two cycling pilgrimages are being planned one between 28 - 31 August and one from 6 - 7 December from London to Paris. Full programme and ways of participating will be on Pax Christi website.

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 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.

All: 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 were we 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.

L: Direct our hearts to better things, O God. Heal us from sin and ignorance, as we turn again to you, to repent and believe the gospel

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

Other opportunities for Christian witness to peace and justice in the months ahead

Repent, and believe the Gospel.

Response: Amen

During the ashing we sing

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong take heart!

After the ashing

L: 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.

Dismissal

All: As members of the body of Christ, we will witness together to the peace of Christ at the Ministry of Defence.

L. We pray that our peaceful intentions may be clearly expressed in our worship, our symbolic acts of witness, and in the way that we relate to those we meet this day and throughout Lent - particularly any who may not understand the Christian basis for our action.
Let us pray...

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.

IMPORTANT

We will walk in silence to Horseguards Avenue, stopping three times for prayer and reflection. It is likely that the building will be marked during our procession and we will keep you informed as to what has happened to those marking.

The path of Remembrance, Repentance and Peace
Follow the cross in silence.

Our cross is brought into the centre of our worship

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.

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| <p>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:
<i>All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.</i></p> <p>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:</p> | <p>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:</p> <p>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:</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Marty Haugen</i></p> |
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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

Blessing - place your hand on the shoulder of the person next to you

And so, may the God of peace, who loves each one of us infinitely, send us forth as an instrument of God's peace, love, and nonviolence, and may the God of peace bless us, the Creator, the Christ and Holy Spirit! Amen.
(Adapted from prayer offered by John Dear at the Los Alamos, New Mexico liturgy of sackcloth and ashes)

Final song:

Remembrance. (Led by Christian CND)

All: Nuclear Defence declares our preference for security rather than life. *Silence*

All: Nuclear Defence declares our enslavement to fear rather than freedom. *Silence*

All: Nuclear Defence declares our preference for risking all life on our planet rather than facing our fears. *Silence*
(words of Gerry Hughes sj)

Reading: Nuclear Weapons constitute the greatest immediate threat to the health and welfare of humankind... It is obvious that no health service in any area of the world would be capable of dealing adequately with the hundreds of thousands of people seriously injured by blast, heat or radiation from even a single one-megaton bomb... Whatever remained of the medical services in the world could not alleviate the disaster in any significant way To the immediate catastrophe must be added the long-term effects on the environment. Famine and diseases would be widespread, and social and economic systems would be totally disrupted..."
(World Health Organisation 2014)

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.

Prayer Action

L: In the 1980s Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle said,
“*Our nuclear war preparations are the global crucifixion of Jesus.*” In this
season of repentance we accompany the crucified and broken communities
around our world who cry out for justice and peace

We now remember all those who have been betrayed by war, the poor,
whose voice cries out to be heard. We invite you to come forward and tie a
ribbon to our cross in memory of a person or place you wish to remember
in our witness. While we do this we sing :

The Cry of the Poor: *The Lord hears the cry of the poor, Blessed be the Lord.*

I will bless the Lord at all times,
with praise ever in my mouth
Let my soul glory in the Lord
Who will hear the cry of the poor

Ev'ry spirit crushed, God will save;
will be ransom for their lives;
Will be safe shelter for their fears,
And will hear the cry of the poor.

Let the lowly hear and be glad:
The Lord listens to their pleas;
And to hearts broken, God is near,
Who will hear the cry of the poor.

We proclaim your greatness,
O God,
Your praise ever in our mouth;
Ev'ry face brightened in your light,
For you hear the cry of the poor.
(John J Foley sj, based on Psalm 33)

Please come forward and tie a ribbon to our cross in memory of a place/people in need of peace. As we do this we will sing:

Break forth into grateful song and sing praises
Yes, sing songs of praise extolling love's way;

Lift up your hearts with gratitude and Joy!
Let the voices of all people blend in harmony, in unison let the peoples
magnify the Beloved!

Let the waters clap their hands!
Let the hills ring out with joy!
Before the Beloved who radiates Love to all the earth.

For Love reigns over the world with truth and justice,
bringing order and balance, harmony, to all Creation!
In keeping with all that is just and fair.

And may we go forth as Your holy right hand, to do great things, in Love!

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

We remember Kathy Kelly, the Transform Now Plowshares, Sr Megan Rice,
Greg Oertje-Obed and Michael Wall serving prison terms in the United
States.

We remember those who gather today making their own Ash Wednesday
witness: those from the Glasgow Catholic Worker in Faslane, Scotland and
Pax Christi Liverpool, in Liverpool City Centre

Please add your own names

**L: The path to peace is not an easy one and we must seek partners and
friends on the way so we pray**

Side 1:

Peace takes walking
So we walk
When we feel defeated
When we question whether we matter
When we are just surviving

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...

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

All: 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.

L: We now offer one another and those around a sign of peace

We move on to our final place of prayer at the South corner

Peace - putting love into action (led by London Catholic Worker)

All: Call us, Lord Jesus, to seek your way of peace and proclaim it to the nations. A peace that seeks security through love, justice, cooperation and respect. A peace that has as its ultimate security our trust in and love of God.

Reading: *A rendition of Psalm 98 that was given in court by Sr Megan Rice during her final words after receiving a 3-year prison sentence for her peace witness in the USA. She is still in prison*

Let us sing to the Beloved a new song.
For Love has done marvellous things!
By the strength of Your Indwelling Presence, (Your right hand)
We, too, are called to do great things;
We are set free through Love's Forgiveness and Truth.
Yes, for Your steadfast Love and Faithfulness are ever-present gifts
in our lives.

All the ends of the earth have seen the glory of Love's Eternal Flame.
Make a joyful noise to the Beloved, all the Earth;

A Prayer of Remembrance

Side 1: O God, tender and just,
the names of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
cut through our denial
that we are capable of destroying the earth
and all that dwell therein.
Forgive us - and help us to always remember.

Side 2: We must remember because this must never happen again.
We must remember because you would have us live
in harmony with each other,
seeing the joy of your creation in our
sisters and brothers.

Side 1: Holy God, God of all the ages,
lead us from death to life,
to the stockpiling of hope, and of possibilities, and of love
rather than the stockpiling of weapons,
or stones to throw, or of hate.

Side 2: We pray for the healing of the earth and of its peoples,
especially for our sisters and brothers
upon whom a nuclear rain poured down.

We pray too for those trapped in violence in Syria, Ukraine,
Afghanistan, Iraq, Central African Republic

Together: Help us to imagine that another world is possible
and guide our actions towards the peace
you envision, the peace you have already given us.
In the name of the One who came so that we might have life,
and have it abundantly, we pray.
Amen. Adapted: Rev. Loey Powell, United Church of Christ

Reading: Nuclear deterrence and the threat of mutually assured destruction cannot be the basis for an ethics of sisterhood and brotherhood and peaceful coexistence among people and states... the desire for peace, security and stability is one of the deepest longings of the human heart. This desire can never be satisfied by military means alone, much less the possession of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
(Pope Francis)

We follow the Cross and walk in silence to our second prayer point, the Ministry of Defence - please cross the road with care. 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. (Led by Pax Christi)

L: God be with us all today. By tradition on Ash Wednesday each year, we mark ourselves with a cross in ash, to signify our repentance of all that prevents us from following Christ on his way to the cross. The violence and fear, which provoked imperial forces to execute Jesus, still dominate our world today. We are here to repent of our sin and to call others into repentance and the love of God. We are called from the ends of the earth to be here.

We sing: This is the day sung twice

This is the day,
this is the day we'll lament of war
We'll lament of war.
We will repent,
We will repent and make peace again
And make peace again.
This is the day we'll lament of war:
We will repent and make peace again.
This is the day,
This is the day we'll lament of war.

Placards and messages are held high as we stand in silence

L: Trident is the countersign to the cross. It arrogantly threatens to undo the work that the cross has done. By Trident, all things will be destroyed.

All: By the cross, all things will be reconciled.

L: The sign of the nuclear age is Trident.

All: the sign of Christ is the cross.

L: In Trident, violence is victorious.

All: In the cross, violence is defeated.

L: In Trident, evil has dominion.

All: In the cross, evil has been overcome.

L: In Trident, death reigns supreme

All: In the cross, death has been swallowed up. In this nuclear age, let our sign be the sign of the cross.

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?

All: Repentance means a change of mind and heart. Joel calls it heart-break, letting God who is all tenderness and compassion, break the cocoon of selfishness with which we defend ourselves from God and others. The call to repentance is a call to the Nation to change political, social and economic structures which oppress and exploit the weak. (Gerry Hughes, sj)

Prayer action

A sheet of sack-cloth is placed in front on the MoD building Please come forward and add ash to the REPENT outline. During this time we sing several times

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)

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 nuclear intention, we beg you...