

Prayers for Peace, Hope and Justice

- We affirmed in the candle of love prayer, that God's love is not a passive sentiment but a prophetic force that disrupts systems of power and privilege. It transforms hearts and reshapes societies.
- Martin Luther King Jr. *Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.*
- Colossians 3:3 asserts that we have been hidden with Christ in God since the beginning ... and by implication, so have our enemies.
- Desmond Tutu said about Ubuntu: *You know when ubuntu is there, and it is obvious when it is absent. It has to do with what it means to be truly human, to know that you are bound up with others in the bundle of life.*
- Jesus exhorts us to pray for our enemies – the enemies of peace, justice, equality and freedom.

Please join me in a prayer of intercession:

O perfect love. You transcend all human thought.

Intangible – yet palpably present.

Gentle – yet almighty to transform and sanctify.

We come to you as we are.

We confess that prayers for our enemies do not come easily to our lips.

We may be tempted to celebrate the downfall of the 'enemy' more than taking comfort in the triumph of justice. Quicken our hearts of clay and birth in us the desire to pray blessing upon those who are blinded by the lust for power and wealth and deaf to the lament of the poor majority.

Gracious God we intercede on behalf of those held captive by the seductive power of wealth and position which, when defended, warps our societies into systems of oppression and brutality. Intervene Oh God, in your mercy. Fan in them the light that you have already implanted in them and grant them a glimpse of the treasure that is your presence. Draw them into the divine-dance with you so that they too may know the true joy and freedom that is the hope of salvation. Show them your amazing grace that saved sinners like ourselves.

We thank you for the many ways you have demonstrated your Lordship over all of creation. Thank you for your promise to restore the earth and establish peace. Strengthen us that we may share with one another generously the love so freely given, and in so doing draw others to you. Cement in us the paradoxical principle that we only keep what we have received by giving it away.

Thy will be done, not ours.

Amen.

