

Other resources and Hymns



This collection, in this form, posted on the Uniting Church National Assembly web site on October 16th, 2002 in the wake of the tragic bombing in two tourist nightclubs in Bali on October 12th, 2002.

Ideas for worship on Sunday October 20th, 2002 or another time.

Information or assistance - email: enquiries@nat.uca.org.au

Other resources and Hymns

Call to Worships

We have come here
to worship and praise God.
We cannot do that with joy today,
for we have come broken and hurt
by the events of this week.

We come to seek for guidance and comfort,
to feel the hand of God upon us,
to know the nearness of your presence.
We come to be gently lifted up,
not so that our pain will go away,
but so that we may truly hear
what the voice of God has to say to us.

God our companion
be with us now
and lead us in our worship and praise of you.

We cannot come together unchanged by the events of this week.
We have seen people die.
Hopes and symbols destroyed
and many people lose their jobs.

We would long to go back in time and forget this week,
but we cannot.

We would ask then O God of all times and places
that you come and be with us today
Take our hands in yours
and place our feet upon the rock of your faithfulness.

Lord Jesus Christ, Come and be with us today,
enter into the very depths of our souls
and know the cries of our hearts
as we struggle on our journey.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come and be with us today,
help us to find the words we need to express our longings,
cover us with the warmth of your love
and set us free to live life on your terms.

God as Trinity, be with us as we seek to honour you
and find meaning and purpose in our lives.

Prayer of Invocation

Oh God of Sarah and of Isaac,
the hope of Hagar and Ishmael,
and guiding light of Mary and of Jesus.

We come to you now from a week
in which our hearts have been broken.
Our calm has been disrupted
and our sense of security has been dashed.
We are discouraged and tired from seeing images
of destruction and death.
We come into your house to find a song of hope,
a promise of peace, and a word of wisdom.

Speak to us, O God of our ancestors.
Speak to us, O God in whom we live and breathe.
Speak to us, O God of our children.

Restore our souls,
fill us with faith,
be with us in our broken world,
and by your touch make us whole.

Grant us and all peoples your peace.
We ask it in the name of Jesus
who died that we might live,
and who lives that we might never die.

Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by
Rev. Richard J. Fairchild
1 - 1409 11th Avenue North
Golden, British Columbia
V0A 1H2
Obtained from the internet
September 2001

Blessing

Confronted with the reality of death,
we are called to respond honestly
to the grief that such a loss brings.

However, we are not called
to be lost in that grief,
but to meet it with confident faith
believing that nothing in life or death
can separate us from the love of God.

We are to go from this place
to live out the faith of the creed

which says:

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and stay with you forever.

AMEN.

Adapted from
Worship for an Easter People
by Frederick A. Styles
Volume 3 : IV-4

O God, Our Words Cannot Express

- 1. O God, our words cannot express
The pain we feel today.
Enraged, uncertain, we confess
Our need to bow and pray.**
- 2. We grieve for all who lost their lives...
And for each injured one.
We pray for children, husbands, wives
Whose grief has just begun.**
- 3. O Lord, we're called to offer prayer
For all our leaders, too.
May they, amid such great despair,
Be wise in all they do.**
- 4. We trust your mercy and your grace;
In you we will not fear!
May peace and justice all embrace!
Be with all people here!**

When all the World is Wounded

- 1. When all the world is wounded,
with nations primed for war,
when horrors of destruction
loom larger than before,
when we, confused, encounter
those who delight to kill,
O Prince of Peace, draw nearer,
and help us know your will!**

- 2. When all the world is watching
cruel actions of a few,
it stands, bereft, bewildered,
uncertain what to do;
revenge is not the answer
nor is an empty peace;
teach us to trust your justice,
which never will decrease.**

CONTINUED ...

**3. When all the world is fragile,
aware it might explode,
we count on you, Creator,
our spirits to uphold;
though hearts are sick and grieving,
and nothing seems secure,
relying on your goodness,
by faith we will endure.**

**4. When all the world is ready
to live in harmony
when goods of every nation
are shared out lovingly,
when your commands are followed
true peace will bless each home;
then, Lord, we'll know your kingdom
on earth has surely come!**

God, we've known such grief and anger

- 1. God, we've known such grief and anger
As we've heard your people cry.
We have asked you, "How much longer?"
We have sadly wondered, "Why?"
In this world of so much suffering,
May we hear your word anew:
"I will never leave you orphaned;
I will not abandon you."**

- 2. By your grace comes resurrection;
By your love, you cast out fear.
You give strength and sure direction
As we seek to serve you here.
You give comfort to the grieving,
And you bless the ones who mourn.
May we trust in you, believing
Out of chaos, hope is born.**

**3. Hope is ours for, God, you love us!
You have claimed us by your grace.
And through Jesus, you have called us
To bring hope to every place.
In each rescue worker's caring,
In each faithful volunteer,
In each Christian's love and sharing,
God, we glimpse your kingdom here.**

Biblical References: John 14:18; I John 4:18; Matthew 5:11, 28:16-20; and John 17:18

This hymn was commissioned by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for the congregational resource *Out of the Depths: Voices of the Presbyterian Faith Community at Work After September 11*, an anniversary publication. Permission is granted for this hymn's free use by churches that support Church World Service.

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Sung to the tune Ode to Joy