

Grieving Our Violence – Bali



1.15 to 1.45pm Tuesday October 15th, 2002

Written by Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon for the UCA Pitt Street, Sydney service of grieving for the victims of the Bali violence.

Posted on the Bali bombing section of the Uniting Church Assembly Web Site at <http://nat.uca.org.au/resources/Bali2002> on October 15th, 2002

Reformatted on October 17th, 2002.

THE GRIEVING

GREETING

Christ be with you.

And also with you

In the centre of our grieving
and the terror of violence abroad in the world,
we carry in the symbol of the God of light.

The candle is carried to the table

CALL TO WORSHIP

God brings light to the world

and the darkness becomes warmed around us.

Christ lives beyond our violence

and the power of death is dimmed.

The Spirit treads in our footsteps

and the face of a child invites us to trust.

WE GRIEVE

As people choose violence,
as we violate each other
and the hope for the community of human life,
the light of God is hidden.

The candle is extinguished

We grieve all violence, O God,
the violence in which we participate
between the powerful and the defenceless,
the rich and the poor,
between men and women,
adults and children.

Silent reflection

We grieve the violence of religious hate,
in parts of all religions and any religions
and between people who hate others
simply because they are different.

We grieve the violence
between people of political difference
and those whose only interest is their own power.

We grieve the violence in humankind
which produces terrible weapons of destruction.

Silent reflection

On this day we especially grieve the violence
which has occurred in Bali
and the suffering of all involved.

Silent reflection

As we come before you, we are aware
that we too participate in violence.
When we have remained silent in the face of hate
directed at someone else
and left in despair those who suffer devastation,

and when we have turned our eyes away
from violence close at hand:
***Forgive us, O God,
for we long to love our neighbours as ourselves
and build communities of kindness and trust.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
In the face of all our realities,
God is making all things new.
Amen.

READINGS

REFLECTION

INTERCESSION
O God, as you wept over Jerusalem,
weep with us over our world and its peoples.
Silent reflection
In the centre of our gathering, we have placed the symbols
of a bowl of tears and a flowing blue cloth of sadness.
As we feel the pain of the our community today,
let us bring our prayers to God.
In the silence, let us write them and place them on the cloth
or simply place a flower there.
The people do so
O God, give us the faith and courage
to act wisely in response to this suffering.
Give us gentleness in our strength
and compassion in the face of need.
Give us respect for those who are different
and open arms in giving sanctuary.
Set us free from all that sustains fear and invites violence
and give us compassion and equity in our search for justice.
Restore trust into our life, O holy God,
and the hope which walks in innocence of heart.
A silence is kept
Do not leave us alone, O God.
***Strong centre in our brokenness,
healer of the wounded ones,
and present in the vulnerable and new born life,
God in the torn part, God in the wholeness,
God in the emptiness and God in the fullness,
come in risen life and defeat the violence of our deaths.
Amen.***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
As we look despair in the face, let us affirm our faith:
We believe in God's gift of sorrow

which carries us back to true humanness
and reminds us of the dream for all creation.

We believe in the good of a grieving
which opens our love for the world,
stills us to look at our life
and to find new paths through the blurring of tears.

***We believe that we are not left alone in our grieving,
that the Christ looks into the painful depths of our life
and weeps with us.***

We believe that we will not stay sorrowing forever,
but that our spirits will be lifted on the wings of the Spirit.

In faith, we believe that hope will come after despair,
that the city of God will be built from our ruins.

We believe that life will not confirm our worst fears
but will surprise us grace.

God is above us,

God is below us,

God is between us,

God is within us.

We will not be afraid.

The candle is relit

COMMISSIONING

Let us carry the light of God into the world,
let us rebuild love and justice
in the creative power of God.

The candle is carried to the door

THE BLESSING

God go with you in all that is gentle,
Christ go with you in all that is brave
and the Spirit go with you in all that is free and true.
Amen.