



## **WORDS FOR WORSHIP IN A TIME OF WAR**

**Wild Goose Resource Group**

This liturgy may be used in small or large groups, and also for personal devotions. Parts of the text may be extracted and used on other occasions.

There are a number of prayers and scripture passages, the reading of which can be shared among those attending. There is one occasion when it is suggested that part of a recent news report is read. There is no sermon or homily, but it is suggested that silence should follow each of the readings.

There are four hymns included. The first two are found in CH4 (Church of Scotland Hymnary) and Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise. The third (*If the war goes on*) can be sung solo or by all, and the music can be found at the end of this liturgy. The last song (*A Woman's Care*) may be sung to the tune Rockingham, commonly associated with 'When I survey the wondrous cross'. The hymns, of course, may be omitted or substituted, but the psalm text (*May God draw near*) should be retained and is effective as a shared reading.

The Ukrainian Kyrie (*Lord/Christ have mercy*) is particularly poignant when sung and can be done so very easily before, during or after the liturgy. Sing it on each occasion at least three times: 1) *Kyrie Eleison* 2) *Christe Eleison* 3) *Kyrie Eleison*.

If a copy of any music for the songs is required, email the Wild Goose Resource Group: [wildgoose@wildgoose.scot](mailto:wildgoose@wildgoose.scot)

Depending on the meeting place, sitting in a circle for this liturgy is much preferable to sitting behind each other in pews or seats, especially if leadership is shared. If possible, have a small table in the centre of the space with a lit candle, a cross and an open Bible. If people wish to include a symbolic action, it might be possible to find a map of Ukraine, possibly from a newspaper. After the second prayer, the Kyrie could be sung repeatedly as candles are lit and placed on the map.

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# WORDS FOR WORSHIP IN A TIME OF WAR

## *Opening Sentences*

Of God we ask,  
**What is the time?**

There is a time to be born  
and a time to die.  
There is a time to kill  
and a time to heal.

**What is the time?**  
There is a time to weep  
and a time to laugh.  
There is a time for mourning  
and a time for dancing.

**What is the time?**  
There is a time to tear  
and a time to mend.  
There is a time for silence  
and a time for speech.

**What is the time?**  
There is a time to love  
and a time to hate.  
There is a time for war  
and a time for peace.

**What is the time?**

*SILENCE IS KEPT*

*Leader:* We are members of a family,  
the human family  
which, in the ancient land of Ukraine,  
is torn by tension, suspicion, hatred,  
hunger, killing and death.

We are troubled by cruelty and disaster  
such as we have never known,  
and we are unclear of the cause  
and unsure of the remedy.

We believe that God accepts confusion  
as well as concern,  
and has never been deaf to the cries  
of anger, fear and hopelessness  
in the face of injustice.

We are the Body of Christ  
in which if one part suffers,  
the other parts pray to heal it  
and help to bear it.

**Song**      **COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE** *from Korea*

Come now, O Prince of Peace,  
make us one body;  
come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile your people.

Come now, O God of love,  
make us one body;  
come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile your people.

Come now and set us free  
O God, our Saviour;  
come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile all nations.

Come, Hope of unity,  
make us one body;  
come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile all nations.

**Prayer**      Let us pray.

In you, our God,  
is our hope and consolation.  
Your love is beyond our deserving,  
your wisdom is beyond our understanding,  
your light is greater than our darkness.

We wish we could enter your presence  
with songs of rejoicing;

but not here, not now.  
Our hearts are heavy, our minds bewildered,  
our uncertainty disturbs our faith.

Why?  
and why?  
and how long?  
and what next?

... these are the questions we bring,  
not looking for instant answers,  
but hoping that we will be heard.

### THE UKRAINIAN KYRIE

slowly

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Gracious God,  
quieten our personal anxieties,  
so that we may better feel  
for those whose land has been invaded  
whose towns and homes are ravaged,  
and whose lives are under threat.  
Quieten us,  
so that we may listen for a word  
from you.  
Amen.

### *First Reading from the letter of James*

What causes fighting and quarrels among you?  
Is their origin found in the warring appetites in your bodies?

You want what you cannot have, so you murder;  
you are envious and cannot fulfil your ambition.

So you quarrel and fight.

You do not get what you want  
because you do not pray for it.  
Or, if you do, your requests are not granted,  
because you do not pray from the right motives.

*SILENCE IS KEPT*

**Second Reading** from a recent news report, followed by silence

**Psalm 20** *sung or read*

*This is a translation of a text the Czech people turned to when Russia invaded their nation in 1968. If read, divide the community into two sections A and*

*B.*

**A** May God draw near when the hour of trouble strikes,  
may Jacob's God be your strength and shield;  
out of the sanctuary, out of his home,  
may God provide in your time of need.

**B** May God remember the sacrifice you make  
and take delight in the gifts you bring;  
may God respond to your heart's deep desire,  
and grant fulfilment to all your plans.

**A** With every blessing our mouths will shout for joy  
to celebrate what the Lord has done;  
and ever after when God shows you favour,  
in every triumph we'll trace his love.

**B** O let us know that the Lord is God indeed,  
and grants success to his chosen ones.  
From highest heaven, God answer our call  
and bring us victory with your right hand.

**A** Some trust in weapons and some in skills of war,  
but all we have is our faith in God.  
They that are mighty shall stumble and fall  
but we will rise and will overcome.

*Third Reading from the book of James*

A word to you who are rich.  
Weep and wail over the miserable fate overtaking you:  
your riches have rotted away;  
your fine clothes are moth-eaten;  
your silver and gold have corroded.

You have piled up wealth in an age that is near its close.  
The wages you never paid to those who mowed your fields  
are crying aloud against you;  
and the outcry of the reapers has reached the ears  
of the Lord of hosts.

You have condemned and murdered the innocent,  
those who offer no resistance.

*SILENCE IS KEPT*

**Song**

**IF THE WAR GOES ON**

*...based on the experience of people who lived through both the civil war  
in Argentina and the Falklands war.*

1.  
If the war goes on  
and the children die of hunger,  
and the old men weep  
for the young men are no more,  
and the women learn  
how to dance without a partner,  
who will keep the score?

2.  
If the war goes on  
and the truth is taken hostage,  
and new horrors lead  
to the need to euphemise;  
when the calls for peace  
are declared unpatriotic,  
who'll expose the lies?

3.  
If the war goes on  
and the daily bread is terror,  
and the voiceless poor  
take the road as refugees;  
when a nation's pride  
destines millions to be homeless,  
who will heed their pleas?

4.  
If the war goes on  
and the rich increase their fortunes,  
as the arms sales soar  
and new weapons are displayed;  
when a fertile field  
turns to no-man's-land tomorrow,  
who'll approve such trade?

5.  
If the war goes on  
will we close the doors to heaven;  
if the war goes on  
will we breach the gates of hell;  
if the war goes on  
will we ever be forgiven,  
if the war goes on?

***Fourth Reading from the Gospel of Matthew***

Jesus said:  
Always treat others as you would like them to treat you;  
that is the law and the prophets.

Enter by the narrow gate.  
Wide is the gate and broad the road  
that leads to destruction,  
and many enter that way.  
But narrow is the gate and constricted is the road  
that leads to life,  
and those who find them are few.

Beware of false prophets  
who come to you dressed up as sheep,  
while underneath they are savage wolves.  
You will recognise them by their fruit.



Can grapes be picked from thorns, or figs from thistles?  
A good tree always produces healthy fruit,  
and a bad tree bad fruit.

That is why I say  
you will recognise the false prophets by their fruit.

*SILENCE IS KEPT*

**Prayer**

Loving God,  
because you have the whole world  
in your hands,  
cradle gently those who are rocked by fear,  
shocked to a depth they have never known  
and frightened to face tomorrow.

On the people of Ukraine:  
their children, their old people,  
their vulnerable adults,  
their babies soon to be born,

Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy.**

On the people of Ukraine:  
their defenders, their advocates,  
those who care for the wounded,  
who sit with the despairing,  
who witness and report  
on the savagery and destruction,  
who bury the dead.  
Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy.**

On the people of Ukraine:  
their leaders  
that they may continue to inspire,  
in word and by example,  
and continue to receive help and solidarity  
from across the world.

Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy.**

On the people of Russia,  
that they might learn the truth  
kept from their hearing;  
On the churches in Russia  
that they might find  
the vocabulary and courage  
to speak truth to power,

On the soldiers of Russia  
who do not believe  
in the carnage they cause.

Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy.**

On the Russian president,  
and those who affirm his policies,  
we ask the judgement of heaven,  
a radical conversion  
and an end to their lies,  
scheming and murder.

Lord hear us,  
**Lord graciously hear us.**

And for our own nation  
we ask for commitment to match conviction  
so that the pain of the Ukrainian nation  
be shared by us,  
their weary people sheltered by us,  
their peace assured by us.

Lord hear us,  
**Lord graciously hear us.**  
**Amen.**

**Song**

**A WOMAN'S CARE** *based on words from Isaiah 49*

1.  
When trouble strikes and fear takes root,  
and dreams are dry and sense unsound,  
when hope becomes a barren waste  
then doubts like mountains soar around.

2.  
Our wandering minds believe the worst  
and ask, as faith and fervour fade,  
'Has God now turned his back on us,  
forsaking those he loved and made?'

3.  
God says, 'See how a woman cares.  
Can she forget the child she bore?  
Even if she did, I shan't forget.  
Though you feel lost, I love you more.

4.  
'My dearest daughter, fondest son,  
my weary folk in every land,  
your souls are cradled in my heart,  
your names are written on my hand.'

5.  
Then praise the Lord through faith and fear,  
in holy and in helpless place,  
for height and depth and heaven and hell  
can't separate us from God's grace.

**Closing Prayer**     *A prayer of St Augustine*

Watch now, dear Lord,  
with those who wake or watch or weep tonight;  
and give your angels charge  
over those who sleep.

**Tend your wounded ones, O Christ;  
rest your weary ones,  
bless your dying ones,  
soothe your suffering ones,  
shield your joyous ones  
and all for your love's sake.  
Amen**

# IF THE WAR GOES ON

First system of musical notation. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 4/4 time, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The piano accompaniment has a right hand with a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4, and a left hand with a half note G3, a half note A3, and a half note B3. Chords are indicated below the piano part: Dm, Gm7, and A.

If the war goes on and the child - ren die of hun - ger, and the

Dm Gm7 A

Second system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, a quarter note G6, a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, a quarter note C7, a quarter note D7, a quarter note E7, a quarter note F7, a quarter note G7, a quarter note A7, a quarter note B7, a quarter note C8, a quarter note D8, a quarter note E8, a quarter note F8, a quarter note G8, a quarter note A8, a quarter note B8, a quarter note C9. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. Chords are indicated below the piano part: Dm, Gm7, and A.

old men weep, for the young men are no more, and the

Dm Gm7 A

Third system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, a quarter note G6, a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, a quarter note C7, a quarter note D7, a quarter note E7, a quarter note F7, a quarter note G7, a quarter note A7, a quarter note B7, a quarter note C8, a quarter note D8, a quarter note E8, a quarter note F8, a quarter note G8, a quarter note A8, a quarter note B8, a quarter note C9. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. Chords are indicated below the piano part: Gm7, C, Fmaj7, and Bb.

wo - men learn how to dance with - out a part - ner; who will

Gm7 C Fmaj7 Bb

Fourth system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, a quarter note G6, a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, a quarter note C7, a quarter note D7, a quarter note E7, a quarter note F7, a quarter note G7, a quarter note A7, a quarter note B7, a quarter note C8, a quarter note D8, a quarter note E8, a quarter note F8, a quarter note G8, a quarter note A8, a quarter note B8, a quarter note C9. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. Chords are indicated below the piano part: Gm7, A, Gm7, and A.

keep the score?

Gm7 A Gm7 A

## Copyright

### **Come Now, O Prince of Peace**

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English language paraphrase Marion Pope.

### **Kyrie**

Traditional Ukrainian

### **May God Draw Near**

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Music: Zdenek Cep, copyright © Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, Prague, Czech Republic

### **If the War Goes On**

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### **A Woman's Care**

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