

Prayer, Song, and Silence

We gather tonight in anxious times, awaiting the outcome of a contentious election, concerned about division and hostility in our communities. And so we gather around scripture, to remind ourselves of God's unchanging faithfulness in the midst of the whiplash of history and our own lives. In times when our own words so easily fail us, when our feelings may well come out sideways, we rely on liturgical prayer and song, all written in other places and times. These words, along with generous silence, can place a check on our pride and our certainty that we are the center of everything, and help us anchor our hopes in God alone.

Silence - a candle is lit.

Invocation

In the name of the Father,
And of the + Son,
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As a Mother Comforts Her Child ACS #1015



As a moth-er com-forts her child, so God will com - fort you.



As a hen gath-ers her brood, so Christ will gath - er you.



As a wise one coun-sels her friend, so the Spir-it will coun-sel you.



The Trin - i - ty of love will be with you.

Show us your mercy, O God,
and grant us your salvation.
Give us the joy of your saving help again,
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.
Give peace in all the world;
for only in you can we live in safety.
Keep the nations under your care,
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.
Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come before you.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Holy God, out of your great love for the world,
your Word became flesh to live among us
and to reconcile us to you and to one another.
Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit
that we might live as one new humanity in Christ,
dismantling the walls that divide, ending the hostility between us,
and proclaiming peace those who are near and to those who are far away;
through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access,
in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever.
Amen.

Silence - a candle is lit.

ELW #887 *This Is My Song*



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*Selah*
Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Silence - a candle is lit.

ACS 1023 God Alone Be Praised



1 O - ceans rise, the coast-land trem-bles; moun-tains melt and dry earth
2 Na - tions rage, the em - pire fal - ters; seek-ing ref - uge, ex - iles
3 Come and see; God's mer - cy gath - ers all that sin and grief have



crum-bles. All the world with long - ing groans. Love a -
wan - der. Walls and weap - ons rise from fear. Through this
shat - tered. Life from fields of death is raised. Peace, be



bides, this gra - cious prom - ise is our help, our hope and
wil - der - ness a riv - er flows to heal and bless us
still; let pride - ful thun - der yield to songs of joy and



so - lace. God's strong word is sol - id ground.
ev - er. God the cru - ci - fied dwells here.
won - der. God and God a - lone be praised.

Ephesians 2:12-22

Remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Silence - a candle is lit.

ACS #1037 *Christ, Our Peace*

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod - y in you.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Silence - a candle is lit.

ELW #714 O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 may we each other's burdens share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 all those who live in you.

We confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Silence - a candle is lit.

ACS 1083 *Be Still and Know*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Be Still and Know'. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has two measures marked '1*' and '2'. The lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'Be still and know that I am God.' and ends with a fermata over the final note.

** May be sung in canon*

Text: Psalm 46:10

Music: BE STILL AND KNOW (BELL), John L. Bell, b. 1949

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Prayers

Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our sovereign and our Savior.

Amen.

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

O God, give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty; pure and temperate in all enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; in whose name we pray.

Amen.

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Silence - a candle is lit.

ACS #1047 *God Is Love*

God is love. God is love; let us love one an -

The first system of music consists of two staves. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody starts on a whole note chord of G2 and B-flat2, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, and a quarter note E2. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. It starts with a whole note chord of G2 and B-flat2, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, and a quarter note E2. The lyrics 'God is love. God is love; let us love one an -' are written below the staves.

oth-er as God first loved us. God is love.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The treble staff continues the melody from the first system, starting with a half note D2, a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, and a half note A1. The bass staff continues the accompaniment, starting with a half note G2, a quarter note F2, and a quarter note E2. The lyrics 'oth-er as God first loved us. God is love.' are written below the staves.

God is love. God is love.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The treble staff continues the melody, starting with a half note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a half note D2. The bass staff continues the accompaniment, starting with a half note G2, a quarter note F2, and a quarter note E2. The lyrics 'God is love. God is love.' are written below the staves.

Charge and Blessing

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord; rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The lord's face shine on you with Grace and Mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen



**Christ
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