

Worship Service

BY DAVID M. BRIDGES

The Hope for Peace

Solo:

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth
 and let it begin with me;
 let there be peace on earth,
 the peace that was meant to be.
 With God as our Father
 brothers all are we,
 let me walk with my brother
 in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
 let this be the moment now;
 with every step I take,
 let this be my solemn vow:
 to take each moment and live each moment
 in peace eternally.
 Let there be peace on earth
 and let it begin with me.

Jill Jackson and Sy Miller

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Call to Worship: Isaiah 11:1-2a, 6, 9

Leader: There shall come forth a shoot from the branch of Jesse,

People: and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
All: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn:

“Your Kingdom Come, O Lord”

Your Kingdom come, O Lord,
wide circling as the sun;
fulfill of old Your Word
and make the nations one.

One in the bond of peace,
the service glad and free
of truth and righteousness,
of love and equity.

Frederick L. Hosmer (1905)

Tune: ST. CECILIA (Hayne)

Scripture Reading with Sung Response: Psalm 122

(Congregation sings refrain of “On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand”¹)

**I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land,
O who will come and go with me,
I am bound for the promised land.**

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

**I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land,
O who will come and go with me,
I am bound for the promised land.**

For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.”
For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

**I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land,
O who will come and go with me,
I am bound for the promised land.**

Prayers for Peace

The leader reads communal petitions for peace,
and the congregation responds: **Gracious God, grant us your peace.**

Anthem:

“Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)”

Traditional round



The Reality of Life

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

(Individuals read a news headline of conflict, war, or violence, as indicated.)

The words of the Teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

What do people gain from all the toil
at which they toil under the sun?
A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the earth remains forever.

From the headlines ...

The sun rises and the sun goes down,
and hurries to the place where it rises.
The wind blows to the south,
and goes around to the north;
round and round goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.

From the headlines ...

All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they continue to flow.
All things are wearisome;
more than one can express;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
or the ear filled with hearing.

From the headlines ...

What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done;
there is nothing new under the sun.
Is there a thing of which it is said,
"See, this is new"?
It has already been,
in the ages before us.

From the headlines ...

The people of long ago are not remembered,
nor will there be any remembrance
of people yet to come
by those who come after them.

Solo:

"Come Sunday"

Duke Ellington (1945)

Sermon:

“Not Peace But a Sword” (Matthew 10:34-39)

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me;
and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;
and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy
of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their
life for my sake will find it.”

Scripture Reading with Sung Response: Matthew 24:1-8

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples
came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked
them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone
will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

(Solo or choir sings verses, congregation sings refrain.²)

We are tossed and driv’n on the restless sea of time;
somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;
in that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
we will understand it better by and by.

*By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we’ll tell the story how we’ve overcome,
for we’ll understand it better by and by.*

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him
privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign
of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered them, “Be-
ware that no one leads you astray.”

We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;
we are trusting in the Lord, and according to God’s Word,
we will understand it better by and by.

*By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by.*

"For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet."

Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand
all the ways that God could lead us to that blessed promised land;
but He guides us with His eye, and we'll follow till we die,
for we'll understand it better by and by.

*By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by.*

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,
and our hearts are made to bleed for a thoughtless word or deed;
and we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
but we'll understand it better by and by.

*By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by.*

Hymn:

"Lead On, O King Eternal"

Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal,
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er Thy face appears.
Your cross is lifted over us,
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might.

Ernest W. Shurtleff (1888)
Tune: LANCASHIRE



The Kingdom of God

Anthem or Solo:

"Down by the Riverside"

Traditional spiritual

Hymn:

"God is Working His Purpose Out," verses 1, 3, 4, and 5

God is working his purpose out
as year succeeds to year;
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

What can we do to work God's work,
to prosper and increase
the brotherhood of all mankind,
the reign of the Prince of Peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea?

All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed;
yet near and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Arthur C. Ainger (1894)

Tune: PURPOSE

Sermon:

"Loving Enemies" (Matthew 5:9, 38-48)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God...."

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax

collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21: 1-4

(Let the words be unprinted, and the reader hidden from worshipers.)

Hymn:

“In Christ There is No East or West”

In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet North and South;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

William A. Dunkerley (1908)

Tune: ST. PETER (Reinagle)

Passing of the Peace:

(spoken to one another) **The peace of God be with you now and forever.**

Benediction: John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Choral or Solo Response:

"Go Now in Peace"³

Natalie Sleeth (1976)

NOTES

1 "On Jordan's Stormy Banks," text by Samuel Stennett (1787), music by Miss M. Durham, *The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion*, edited by William Walker (New York: Hastings House, 1835); arranged by Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1895.

2 "We'll Understand It Better, By and By," text and music by Charles A. Tindley, 1905.

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