

Service of Prayer and Lament Following the Invasion of Iraq

Opening Words/Scripture/Call to Prayer
Gathering Song - O Healing River #372†

Opening Prayer/Invocation

Worship leader acknowledges God's presence, expresses what we are feeling as we gather

Dona Nobis Pacem #346

Isaiah 31:1-3 to lead into prayer of confession

Prayer of Confession * (unison or read by worship leader)

O Holy One, God of all nations, tongues, and peoples, we come into your presence confessing that we, as a people and nation, have tried to make our world more secure by relying upon political alliances, military strategy and technology, and by trusting in our own stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, fleets of ships, stealth bombers, tanks, rifles and recruits. We confess that we, as a nation, have placed our trust in our military might to solve the problems among the nations and have not looked to you and your transforming power to heal and reconcile. Have mercy upon us, even now as the bombs fall and the tanks roll.

Time of silence for people to make their own silent prayers of confession

Lead us in the ways that nurture reconciliation. Teach us to follow in the costly way of peace exemplified in Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

Kyrie Eleison #144

Prayers of Lament

Guided prayer - worship leader invites people to speak words or phrases

O God, our shelter and rock, we bring to you our laments as the destructive forces of war are unleashed. We bring the cries of our hearts. Our fears. Our pain.

Silence for people to speak words or phrases

O Lord, Hear My Prayer #348

Prayers of Intercession and Hope

Guided prayer - worship leader invites people to speak words or phrases

O God, our hope and salvation, we bring to you our prayers of intercession and hope. We pray for all those whose lives are impacted by this war—the people of Iraq, world leaders, the members of the military and their families, the poor in this country.

Silence for people to speak words or phrases

O Lord, Hear My Prayer #348

Psalm 46 (unison reading) followed by silence for reflection

Prayer at the Cross

Worship leader invites people to come forward as they feel led, kneel by the cross to pray, and then light a candle of hope to take with them as they return to their seats. Congregation sings during this time of prayer. Songs could include:

O Lord, Hear My Prayer #348

Dona Nobis Pacem #346

Spirit of the Living God #349

Lord, Listen to Your Children #353

Veni Sancte Spiritus #298

Precious Lord, Take My Hand #575

I Am Weak and I Need Thy Strength #553

Oyenos, Mi Dios #358

Dona Nobis Pacem Domine #294

Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us #352

Words of Hope - Romans 8:31-39

Closing Song *For the Healing of the Nations #367*

Charge *

In the presence of God and this gathered community, let us commit ourselves, with God's grace, to continue to offer a public voice for peace. Let us not remain silent in the face of death and destruction, but speak up and act for peace between nations and justice within our own communities, for the two are inseparably linked. Though the drums of war beat, we march to a different drummer, Jesus Christ.

Benediction

†Songs are all found in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

*Prayer of Confession and Charge adapted from *Look to the Holy One: Candlelight Prayer Vigil on the Eve of War* prepared by Leo Hartshorn, Minister of Peace and Justice, Mennonite Mission Network.

This service prepared by Peacemaking Mennonites, Fresno, CA.

<http://peacemaking.com/mennos>