

# A CELTIC SERVICE FOR PEACE

Thursday at 6:30 PM, St. Paul's on the Green, Norwalk, Connecticut

Welcome to St. Paul's on the Green. We're glad you're here.

Please prepare for worship in silence and in prayer.

You are invited to light a taper and place it in the candle stand on entering the church.

*As the ringing of the bell fades, the people stand.*

## GATHERING

Leader: Circle me, Creator:

People: **keep protection near and danger afar.**

Leader: Circle me, Teacher:

People: **keep hope within; keep doubt without.**

Leader: Circle me, Spirit:

People: **keep light near and darkness afar.**

Leader: Circle me, Holy One:

People: **keep peace within; keep evil out.**

## HYMN

*led by the cantor*

1. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands and  
2. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands with  
3. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands, like

like a trea - sure hold it. Pro - tect it  
lov - ing ex - pec - ta - tion; be gen - tle  
bread we break for shar - ing; look peo - ple

like a can - dle flame, with ten - der - ness en - fold it.  
in your words and ways, in touch with life's cre - a - tion.  
warm - ly in the eye; our life is meant for car - ing.

words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

music: *St. Columba*, Irish melody

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## OPENING PRAYER

**Leader:** Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God.

*Silence is kept.*

**Leader:** It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done. What has not been done has not been done. Let it be.

The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray.

**People:** Amen.

*The people sit.*

## THE READING

*The reader announces and reads the first passage from today's lectionary.*

**Reader:** Hear what the spirit is saying to the people.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

*led by the cantor*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul! It is well with my soul,". The score ends with a double bar line.

words: Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888)  
music: *Ville du Havre*, Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876)

## THE GOSPEL

*The reader announces and reads the Gospel from today's lectionary.*

**Reader:** Hear what the spirit is saying to the people.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*The hymn is repeated at the conclusion of the Gospel.*

## THE REFLECTION

*Following the reflection, a bell rings, introducing a period of silence.*

*At the second ringing of the bell, the people stand.*

## THE PRAYERS

Leader: Guide me in your truth and teach me, God, for it is you who saves me.

We pray for peace in our world: that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future.

**People: God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all people who are working to build peace in their communities: that they may inspire others by their example and be strengthened to carry on, even in the hardest times.

**People: God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all people who have been affected by violence as they rebuild their lives: that they may find it in their hearts to move forwards in peace and forgiveness.

**People: God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for our local community: that we may be bearers of your peace.

**People: God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit; those who have died; and those who care for them, that all may find the peace of God's loving embrace.

**People: God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: I invite us to add our own prayers and thanksgivings.

*The people may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.*

Leader: Let us pray for our selves,

**People: that we may release our own worries, trust in God's love, receive God's forgiveness, and be instruments of God's healing and peace. Amen.**

Leader: Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.

**People: Amen.**

## THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US

Leader: God in Community, Holy and One, we lift our prayers to you as Jesus taught us, saying:

**People: Our Holy One in heaven, holy is your Name. Your reign come, your will done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and help us forgive as we have been forgiven. In the time of trial, lead us into life, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*(Rather than the hierarchical "kingdom," "kingdom" here refers to family, community, and equality.)*

Leader: Be present, Spirit of God, within us, your dwelling place and home, that this house may be one where all darkness is penetrated by your light, all troubles calmed by your peace, all evil redeemed by your love, all pain transformed by your suffering, and all dying glorified in your risen life.

**People: Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## A MOMENT OF PEACE

*The leader introduces an extended period of silence. You are invited to close your eyes, meditate, pray, reflect, or simply sit in silence.*

# CHANT

*introduced by the cantor, then sung three times*

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: trou-ble not your  
hearts. My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: Be not a - fraid. My

words and music: Taizé community  
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## THE PRAYER AND PEACE

**Leader:** I will lie down and sleep in peace,  
**People:** for You alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

O God, and Spirit, and Jesus, the Three,  
from the crown of my head, O Trinity,  
to the soles of my feet mine offering be.

Come I unto you, O Jesus.

O Jesus, be my sheltering.

My dear ones, O God, bless and keep,  
in every place where they are.

Whoever has chosen to make  
the shelter of the Most High their dwelling place  
will stay in His over-shadowing.

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;  
He is my God, and I am trusting Him.

He will rescue you from the traps laid for your feet,  
and save you from the destroying curse.

His faithful promises are your armor.

You need no longer be afraid of any terror by night,  
or the death-arrow that flies by day. Amen.

**Leader:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People:** And also with you.

*As the people depart, they share a sign of peace with one another.*