

Oct 6, 2024 – online Peace and Reconciliation

(can be used as Pre-service music)

Christ, be our light – StF 706

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caA4sIXkD44>

O So-So <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQxp7Dcjeg>

Put Peace into each other's hands – StF 712, (omit v 4?)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VI_sd5A-h8&t=24s

==ORDER OF SERVICE==

Call to worship – **GMT20240926-073357, start at .05 tp 1.13**

Christ, be our light – StF 706

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caA4sIXkD44>

Prayers -- **GMT20240926-073357, 1.24 to 15.00**

Intro to theme

Amos 5:10-15, 21-24

FoR Prayer

Intro to FoR

Interview with John Cooper, Fellowship of Reconciliation – **GMT20240925-123518**

Start to 15.05, then 15.18 to end

Meditation on reconciliation -- **GMT20240926-073357, 15.10 to 19.02**

As your family, Lord, see us here -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89scKGIs5_M

Intro to O So-So -- **GMT20240926-073357, 19.26 to 23.30**

O So-So

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQxp7Dcjeg>

Prayer of Confession -- **GMT20240926-073357, 23.44 to 25.58**

Universal prayer of peace

Benediction

Put Peace into each other's hands

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VI_sd5A-h8&t=24s

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www.for.org.uk – Fellowship of Reconciliation

www.mpf.org.uk – Methodist Peace Fellowship

FoR youtube stream - <https://www.youtube.com/@fellowshipofreconciliation1408/videos>

Join our weekly peace prayers:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckduCoqD4uG9AngQGoHRbDdannig3_o89D#/

Fellowship of Reconciliation Prayer

Divine Creator,

you have made the earth wholesome and good;

you have provided your people with food and drink;

you have cared for us as a parent for children.

But we have not responded to your love as we should;

we have divided our world into warring groups;

we have broken the structure of our society;

we have made enemies and stirred up dissension.

Forgive us and help us to find the way to unity,

to offer and receive forgiveness,

to seek healing for our broken world

in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

Amos 5:7-15, 21-24

⁷⁻⁹ Woe to you who turn justice to vinegar
and stomp righteousness into the mud.
Do you realize where you are? You're in a cosmos
star-flung with constellations by God,
A world God wakes up each morning
and puts to bed each night.
God dips water from the ocean
and gives the land a drink.
God, God-revealed, does all this.
And he can destroy it as easily as make it.
He can turn this vast wonder into total waste.
¹⁰⁻¹² People hate this kind of talk.
Raw truth is never popular.
But here it is, bluntly spoken:
Because you run roughshod over the poor
and take the bread right out of their mouths,
You're never going to move into
the luxury homes you have built.
You're never going to drink wine
from the expensive vineyards you've planted.
I know precisely the extent of your violations,
the enormity of your sins. Appalling!
You bully right-living people,
taking bribes right and left and kicking the poor when they're down.
¹³ Justice is a lost cause. Evil is epidemic.
Decent people throw up their hands.
Protest and rebuke are useless,
a waste of breath.
¹⁴ Seek good and not evil— and live!
You talk about God, the God-of-the-Angel-Armies,
being your best friend.
Well, *live* like it, and maybe it will happen.
¹⁵ Hate evil and love good,
then work it out in the public square.
Maybe God, the God-of-the-Angel-Armies,
will notice your remnant and be gracious.
²¹⁻²⁴ "I can't stand your religious meetings.
I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.
I want nothing to do with your religion projects,
your pretentious slogans and goals.
I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,
your public relations and image making.
I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.
When was the last time you sang to *me*?
Do you know what I want?
I want justice—oceans of it.
I want fairness—rivers of it.
That's what I want. That's *all* I want.

Prayer

God of love, how sad it is that your people are oppressed;
the poor are made destitute by unjust systems;
the hungry cannot buy food because of increasing poverty;
many suffer from diseases because they lack medicine.
We look to you for healing; we find in you our salvation.
Lead us in the ways of justice and peace
that we may turn from the darkness of yesterday
to the bright hope of tomorrow.

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During the summer, I was able to attend both the Oxford Institute and Greenbelt,
Where there were people of faith from all walks of life and many parts of the world.
I've spoken before of how those gathered were passionate about their faith –
Not just content to be spectators but determined to be active practitioners.
For some, the practice was joining campaigns and gathering attention of others to their cause.
For others, it was quiet reflection and creative action
To work through their own responses to the challenges of evil
And do what they could to make things right.
For some, it was devoted themselves to careful study
And thoughtful theological reflection.
For others, it was banding together with others
To work on global issues at a local level.
There seemed to be as many different ways to react and work through the challenges
As there were people willing to do so
But behind it all was a determination not to just sit back and leave the challenges to others.
And surrounding it all was worship –
Grounding ourselves in who we are and who God is
And what God requires of each of us.

At Greenbelt, the Methodist gathering place was a huge tent called 'Hope and Anchor',
Which hosted a wide variety of events, from EcoTheology to dealing with Baby Loss
From dealing with loneliness to exploring meanings of 'queer' in the Bible
That go beyond our current linking of that term solely with homosexuality.
A wide a variety of people came into the Hope and Anchor tent –
One session I attended had only printed out 100 copies of the hymn sheet
But there were at least twice that many persons trying to crowd in!
It did make me wonder about our weekly worship services
And whether we were actually offering topics that people were interested in!

At Greenbelt, I was a volunteer at the Fellowship of Reconciliation booth –
Which also incorporates the Methodist Peace Fellowship --
A group of Methodists who are concerned about peace and reconciliation issues
At all levels of human life –
Recognising that reconciliation within our homes and families and neighbourhoods
Can be very challenging – but if we can learn to reconcile at home,
Then world peace becomes a more achievable goal –
Put another way, many of us feel helpless about global conflict –
Thinking we don't have the power to do anything,
But in fact, the way we live our own lives on a daily basis with those closest to us
Is the way we can each bring peace and justice and stability to our planet.

O-So-So Intro

At both the Oxford Institute and Greenbelt, I heard a particular song,
One that I had first learned about 25 years ago but forgotten –
It comes from Korea, and it speaks of asking God to come and be among us –
To show us the ways of peace.

The song is called, 'O-So-So'. It was written by a man who had been born in N Korea,
But moved as a child with his family to S Korea
Where his father was a minister.
He wrote the song as an adult while he was studying theology himself.

The lines about 'Come now, O Prince of Peace: make us one body'
Speak particularly about the strain felt so strongly by the Korean people to this day:
North and South Korea having been split apart for decades now –
Desperately yearning to be reconnected –
I've had several Korean friends over the years – peaceful, gentle folk –
And they have sometimes spoken to me about the sadness they feel...
In traditional Korean culture, this sadness is often depicted as a burden –
A sense of shame and guilt based on from generation to generation –
The name for it is 'Han.'
As Christianity came to Korea, the concept of Han often equated to 'sin' –
So Jesus was seen as the one who came to overcome Han –
I often note in this song how that word 'Han' comes back several times –
Jesus, help us overcome our Han.

Whenever I heard this song, I'm drawn in again to that sense of yearning for wholeness,
For peace, for reconciliation.
Since I heard it, unexpectedly, twice this past month in very different circumstances,
I share it now with you as a prayer of the Prince of Peace to come to us.
Help us think deeply about the situations of conflict across our world.
Help us recognise where God's people and God's good earth is suffering.
Help us repent of our own contributions to that suffering.
Help us find ways to make real and lasting changes for good.
Help us discover the unexpected blessings of working for peace.

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Universal Prayer for Peace

God, lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth;
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust;
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.
Peace Peace Peace

Benediction

Go into a world of need to speak a word of hope
Go into a world of hunger to respond with compassion
Go into a broken world to witness to Christ's healing
The peace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
fill your heart and mind today and always.