



# CAN WE LIVE WITH REALITY? PRINCE OF PEACE IN A WORLD IN CRISIS

27<sup>th</sup> December 2020



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# WELCOME AND NOTICES



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# CALL TO WORSHIP

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

John 14:27 (NIV)



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**IMAGINE PEACE**

**PEACE, PERFECT  
PEACE**



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# OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

We bless you, Abba, Father, for you have visited your people in one like us in all things but sin, and in human fragility you have revealed the face of divinity.



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Gather into your arms all the peoples of the world, so that in your embrace we may find blessing, peace, and the fullness of our inheritance as your daughters and sons.



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Grant that all people may hear together the song of joy, and find their homes in the garden of justice and hope, that we may experience the fullness of life, which is your will for all, in the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# CONFESSION



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Loving Father all the fancy words in the world, expressed in eloquent prose, decorated with emotion, spoken with conviction, cannot compete with a heartfelt 'sorry' when all other words fail.





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There are times when we are all too aware of our limitations, conscious of sin and the distance it creates between us.

Sometimes 'sorry' is all the heart can bear to say aloud. It is only you who can read and understand the language of our hearts. Only you who can translate our 'sorry' into the prayer we would have prayed if we had the words within us.



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Then you forgive, and having forgiven, surround us in an embrace of love, drawing us close to your heart as it was always meant to be.



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Thank you, Loving Father. Transform us, through your Spirit, and empower us to serve you this day and all days.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

# OFFERTORY PRAYER



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Help us to be generous givers, dear Lord, both of our money and our lives, that we might make a difference in this place. We ask this through your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate this Christmastide and who gave all that he was that we might know life in all its fullness. **Amen.**

# ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7



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Isaiah 9:2,6-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.



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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will



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reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**



# PRINCE OF PEACE IN A WORLD IN CRISIS

MADE IN  
CRISIS



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# I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY



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# PRINCE OF PEACE IN A WORLD IN CRISIS

MADE IN  
CRISIS



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IT CAME UPON A  
MIDNIGHT CLEAR



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# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, at this holy time, your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**



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At this holy time, there was no room for your Son at the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.  
**Holy God, hear our prayer.**



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At this holy time, Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all that are in pain or distress.

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**

At this holy time, our Christ came  
as a light  
shining in the darkness. Bring  
comfort to all who  
suffer in the sadness of our world.

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**



At this holy time, the angels sang,  
'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen those who work for  
peace and justice in the world.

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**



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At this holy time, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.

Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**



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At this holy time, strangers found  
the Holy Family and saw the baby  
lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we  
love.

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**



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At this holy time, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**



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At this holy time, Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**



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Father, at this holy time angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen**



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# THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**



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

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

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



# JOY TO THE WORLD



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# CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Gracious Father, as we leave this church this morning help us to continue walking in the peace that surpasses all understanding.



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Help us to focus on you and your word and not the things of this world that cause us to be depressed and anxious. As we go back to our homes, help us to continue resting in you. Help us to refrain from things that will steal our peace and joy. In Jesus' name, we pray.

**Amen.**



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May the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us  
all, all those we love, all those we care  
for, and all those we pray for, this  
Christmas season and ever more.

**Amen**



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Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**