

# PEACE SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 9, 2008



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## Welcome & Prayer

### Call to Worship

Leader: In a world filled with violence and war,

All: **we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.**

Leader: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

All: **we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.**

Leader: In a world filled with hunger and greed,

All: **we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.**

Leader: Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,  
the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.

### Pastoral Prayer / Prayer of Intercession

Offering Song "Come and See"

### Responsive Reading Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in times of trouble.

All: **Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth should change,  
though the oceans roar,  
though the mountains crumble into the sea.**

Leader: Be still, and know that I am God.  
exalted among the nations,  
exalted in the earth.

All: **The Lord Almighty is here among us;  
the God of Israel is our stronghold.**

**Song of Meditation**    “Be Still and Know that I Am God”

**Reflecting On Our World Today**

**Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, when we see the brokenness and violence of our world it is tempting to point a finger of blame at others. Yet we know that we are not blameless. We also contribute to the brokenness and pain of our world. In your mercy, hear our prayer of confession.

When we harbour anger and impatience in our own hearts...

**forgive us, O God.**

When we allow grievances and jealousies to destroy our relationships with others...

**forgive us, O God.**

When we fail to act with love toward one another, even those within our own church community...

**forgive us, O God.**

When we harbour hidden prejudices against those who are different from us...

**forgive us, O God.**

When we hesitate to act or speak out against violence and injustice...

**forgive us, O God.**

When we hold tight to what we have, even though so many in our world do not have enough...

**forgive us, O God.**

You have called us to be peacemakers, to continue the reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ. Remove from us all those things which would prevent us from being true agents of reconciliation in our broken world. Through our lives, and by our prayers, may your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

**Song of Response**    “Refiner’s Fire”

**Words of Assurance**

Hear the good news!

The God who confronts us is also the God who encourages us.

The God who calls us is also the God who strengthens us.

Be assured of God’s forgiveness and love, and be at peace.

**Song of Assurance** “Faithful One”

**Scripture—Matthew 5:3-10** NLT

God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.  
God blesses those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
God blesses those who are humble,  
for they will inherit the whole earth.  
God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,  
for they will be satisfied.  
God blesses those who are merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
God blesses those whose hearts are pure,  
for they will see God.  
God blesses those who work for peace,  
for they will be called the children of God.  
God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

**Sermon**

**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS**

Pastor Roger

**Song of Commitment** “Be Thou My Vision”

**Challenge and Blessing**

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of God who called you out of darkness into marvellous light. Go into the world; live as God’s people, through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. And may God, who has shown us such love, and given us such unflinching encouragement and so sure a hope, encourage and strengthen you in every good deed and word. Amen.

Readings from “On Earth as in Heaven—Praying for Peace”  
MCC Peace Sunday Packet 2008, used by permission.

For additional resources, please refer to the Mennonite Central  
Committee’s website: <http://mcc.org/peacesunday>

