

## **Peacemakers**

- Revd Kit Gunasekera

Today, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent. As we do so, we are conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations. And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss. But above all things, let us act and pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, and let us pray for lasting peace.

## **A prayer for VE Day**

*From the Act of Commitment for Peace*

Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit;  
give us wisdom;  
give us courage;  
give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always.  
Amen.

## **A Blessing**

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always. All Amen.

Bible Reading: Micah 4:1-4

In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and peoples will stream to it.

<sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> He will judge between many peoples

and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war anymore.

Song: Blessed are the peacemakers sung by students of St. John's Lutheran School – you can listen to it here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qyKgpbpSZ0>

### Verse 1

*It's the push and it's the shove*

*It's anything but love*

*Fighting all our little war*

*It's the hurtful things we say*

*At school, at work, at play*

*What is all the fighting for?*

*Oh Oh, I know*

### Verse 2

*When the talking turns to shout*

*Left alone or just left out  
Some are feeling that they don't belong  
Others hurting deep inside  
With tears they've never cried  
Oh, why can't we all get along?  
Hey, hey, I say  
Blessed are the peacemakers*

*Chorus 1*

*Blessed are the peacemakers  
They're the children of our God  
Blessed are the ones who make  
Peace with others for Jesus' sake  
Blessed are the peacemakers  
They're the children of our God  
The peace of Christ alive to all the world  
Blessed are the peacemakers.*

*Verse 3*

*There's an answer from above  
The Father in His love  
Sent to us his only Son  
Angels at his birth  
Singing peace on earth  
Because of what he had begun  
Ooh Ooh, it's true*

*Verse 4*

*He took away our sin  
To give us peace within  
And peace with God eternally  
But the cross is just the start  
Now it's living in my heart*

*And the peace is flowing out of me*

*Aye aye, that's why*

*I wanna be a peacemaker*

*Bridge*

*Blessed are the peacemakers*

*Blessed are the peacemakers*

*Blessed are the peacemakers.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers*

*Verse 5*

*O Lord, make me a tool*

*Of peace within my school*

*Peace within my family*

*Peace within my church*

*Peace in all the earth*

*This is what I want to be*

*Ooh ooh, it's true*

*Aye Aye, That's why*

*Hey Hey, I pray*

*Let me be a peacemaker*

*Chorus 2*

*Let me be a peacemaker*

*Let me be a child of God*

*Let me be the one who makes*

*Peace with others for Jesus sake*

*Let me be a peacemaker*

*Let me be a child of God*

*The peace of Christ alive to all the world*

*Let me be a peacemaker*

*Let me be a peacemaker*

*Let me be a peacemaker*

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“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

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