



**Morning worship
Monday, March 20, 2006**

A prayer for peace

Ecumenical Centre, Geneva



Music

Introduction

Today we commemorate three years of the beginning of the war against Iraq. After three years, violence continues to affect severely the country. In the middle of the Lent period, let's pray humbly for peace in Iraq and in the whole world.

Silence

Litany of Peace

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (*Matthew 5:9*)

Silence

Song: Yarabba ssalami - *Agape 110*

"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" (*John 16:33*)

Silence

Song: Yarabba ssalami

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (*John 14:27*)

Silence

Song: Yarabba ssalami

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." (*Psalms 34:14*)

Silence

Song: Yarabba ssalami

Prayer

Let us pray.

(A brief silence)

Compassionate God, make the peace on our lips evident in our lives, that we would be vessels of peace poured out in our homes, our communities and the world.

Amen.

Bible reading: Psalm 85:8-13

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Reflection**Silence****The Prayers**

Let us offer our prayers to God, pleading for life and peace God alone can give, and sing:

Kyrie eleison – *Agape 28*

God of our birth and all creation, we thank you for the amazing gift of life. Help us to treasure all life and to work toward ending violence. Give us courage to go where you go and to stand with the Iraqi people and with all those who suffer violence. Heal us of our lust for power. Grant hope and renewed strength to all who suffer from wars.

Kyrie eleison

God of strength, we pray for the women who are subjected to a lot of pain and suffering in the midst of wars. Mothers lose their sons, wives their husbands, daughters their fathers. Families are torn apart, and many women have to shoulder heavy burdens alone. We pray that you hold the women close to you when they are in despair and pain.

Kyrie eleison

God of love and care, surround the children in wars with your loving embrace and healing touch. We pray that they may have chance to dream about the future and to experience security and peace. We pray that they may have an opportunity to enjoy the same right as other children – the right to be a child. Hold them tight in your embrace, O God, when they are scared and tremble in fear.

Kyrie eleison

God of wisdom, we pray that you help government and political leaders understand that violence cannot and will not end violence. Help the leaders of nations make decisions which promote life and peace on earth; let them seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly before you.

Kyrie eleison

God of creation, we pray for the environment that is subjected to massive destruction and plundering during wars. We pray for the preservation and protection of the whole creation.

Kyrie eleison

God of all nations, this week in the ecumenical prayer cycle, we pray for the people and the churches of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Be among them, fill every heart with your love and mercy. God, grant the whole world peace.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *(in your own language)*

The Concluding Prayer *(written by Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy)*

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but you.
Great and wonderful are your works, wondrous are your ways.
Thank you for the many-splendored variety of your creation.
Thank you for the many ways we affirm your presence and purpose, and the freedom to do so.
Forgive our violation of your creation.
Forgive our violence toward each other.
We stand in awe and gratitude for your persistent love for each and all of your children: Christians, Jews, Muslims, as well as those with other faiths.
Grant us and our leaders attributes of the strong: mutual respect in words and deed, restraint in the exercise of power and the will for peace with justice for all.
Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but you.

Amen.

Blessing *(Em tua graça, p. 141, 2003 © Clare McBeath (UK))*

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us;
may the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us;
and may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us;
from now into eternity

Amen.

Lighting of candles

Before leaving the chapel you are invited to light a candle and pray silently for peace.

Song: Let there be light - *Agape 51*