



‘Worship at home’ November 13th 2022



We come to worship God
who is always with us,
and who promises to make all things new.
Light a candle to remind you of this truth.

Opening from Isaiah 12:3-6

Give thanks to God, and call upon God’s name!

For God is great, and God is here!

Spread the news of what God has done throughout the world.

For God is great, and God is here!

Sing praise, and shout for joy:

For God is great, and God is here!

‘Peace be with you.’

This is a common greeting, and exchange during worship. In times of struggle and uncertainty, this is our prayer for our world.
‘Peace be with you.’

What does the term ‘peace’ mean for you?

Is it simply the absence of conflict?

Or is it something more?

***“For behold,
I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things
shall not be remembered
or come into mind.”
Isaiah 65:17***

Like us, the ancient Israelites lived in times of struggle and uncertainty. Conflict raged around them; illness and suffering and famine were widespread; neighbouring countries threatened to overpower and oppress. Even after they returned home to Jerusalem from their time in exile in Babylon, they continued to experience turmoil and conflict. 1

The prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope to God's people, bringing a new vision of peace.

Isaiah 65:17-25

The Lord says, "I am making a new earth and new heavens. The events of the past will be completely forgotten. Be glad and rejoice forever in what I create. The new Jerusalem I make will be full of joy, and her people will be happy. I myself will be filled with joy because of Jerusalem and her people. There will be no weeping there, no calling for help. Babies will no longer die in infancy, and all people will live out their life span. Those who live to be a hundred will be considered young. To die before that would be a sign that I had punished them. People will build houses and get to live in

them - they will not be used by someone else. They will plant vineyards and enjoy the wine - it will not be drunk by others. Like trees, my people will live long lives. They will fully enjoy the things that they have worked for. The work they do will be successful, and their children will not meet with disaster. I will bless them and their descendants for all time to come. Even before they finish praying to me, I will answer their prayers. Wolves and lambs will eat together; lions will eat straw, as cattle do, and snakes will no longer be dangerous. On Zion, my sacred hill, there will be nothing harmful or evil."

Good News Bible

Here we are, 2000 years on, still wrestling with pain and suffering, and still yearning for peace in our world.

How do you long for peace in our world? In your life? What might that mean for you?

Maybe it would be that families would stop arguing...there would be no more domestic violence...no need for the use of drugs or excessive alcohol to deaden the pain...no hunger or thirst, homelessness or poverty...no conflict or destruction...no-one would have to flee their country in fear of their lives...maybe we would respect our differences and work out our disagreements with love.

Prayer of Confession

You give us a vision of your kingdom, gracious God:
a kingdom where there will be no more weeping,
no fighting, no more destruction.



Yet we look around our world and it is all too easy to see...
weeping, fighting, destruction.

We are so aware that our lives, and our world,
fall so far short of your kingdom.

Forgive us our role in this:

Forgive us the times we have contributed to arguments,
pain for others, and damage to their lives.

Forgive us the times we have disappointed
or betrayed you and others.

Forgive us the times we have acted
out of selfishness or greed,
rather than trying to further
your kingdom of love and peace.

Bring us back into right relationship with you,
and each other.

Through your transforming love, change us,
and make us channels of your peace and love,
that we may be bearers of hope in your world.

Amen

Words of affirmation

We can be a part of God's new creation,
as through Christ we are made new,
and our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.*



*Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.*

God has the power to transform even
the most terrible war,
the most dysfunctional family,
the most confusing politics,
the hardest of hearts.

In God's kingdom, there will be
no more weeping;
no fighting;
no more destruction;
the wolf will lie with the lamb.



As we approach the season of Advent, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we remember that Christ has come. Our story of faith affirms that Christ is risen and is with us in the person of the Holy Spirit. Yet our present reality reminds us that Christ will come again. We live in an in-between time, a time of 'already, but not yet.' And we anticipate with hope the coming kingdom of Christ, in all its fullness.

It is up to *us* to work with God in order for this hope of transformation, of God's kingdom, to be evident in our lives, and in our world. When we commit ourselves to God, when we truly seek God's ways, when we act in ways that bring about love and peace, then we will see that love and peace at work in our lives, and in the world around us.

Closing

**You are making
all things new.**

a new heaven
a new earth
a new way of thinking
a new way of being.

**You are making
all things new.**

no more Death
no more mourning

no more crying
no more pain

**You are making
all things new.**

renew our minds
to renew the world
by living out your
commandment of love.

- <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>