



*This material was written by Revd. John Johansen-Berg for the 2004 Weekend of Services for World Peace. The theme of the weekend was 'Healing a Broken World'.*

### **Service sheet**

#### **Healing a Broken World**

#### **Responsive Worship**

Psalm Response. 147: 1, 3-5.

L: Praise be to God. How good it is to sing praises to our God,

R: how pleasant and fitting to praise God!

L: God heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

R: God determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

L: Great is our God and mighty in power;

R: God's understanding has no limit.

#### **Prayer**

Divine Creator,  
you have made the earth wholesome and good;  
you have provided your people with food and drink;  
you have cared for us as a parent for children.  
But we have not responded to your love as we should;  
we have divided our world into warring groups;  
we have broken the structure of our society;  
we have made enemies and stirred up dissension.  
Forgive us and help us to find the way to unity,  
to offer and receive forgiveness,  
to seek healing for our broken world  
in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

**Hymn - Christ is the world's true light. ( G.W.Briggs)**

**Reading. Amos. Ch.5. 10 - 15; 21 - 24**

**Prayer**

God of love,  
How sad it is that your people are oppressed;  
the poor are made destitute by unjust systems;  
the hungry cannot buy food because of increasing poverty;  
many suffer from diseases because they lack medicine.  
We look to you for healing; we find in you our salvation.  
Lead us in the ways of justice and peace  
that we may turn from the darkness of yesterday  
to the bright hope of tomorrow.

**Reading. St.Luke.Ch.7. 18 - 23**

**Prayer**

Lord of Life,  
we cause so many of our problems by wasting resources.  
When the choice before us is life or death,  
we so often squander wealth on the waste of war.  
Inspire us to tackle the causes and effects of disability;  
to help the blind to see and the lame to walk;  
to engage in research that will overcome diseases.  
Help us to care for those in need  
so that the poor will have cause to celebrate.  
Lead us in the ways of reconciliation  
so that we may see peace and justice across the world.

**Reading. Revelation. Ch.22. 1 - 5**

**Meditation**

There is much in our present world to cause a feeling of deep despair. The hope with which the new millennium was welcomed has been dispelled by new wars, invasions, acts of terrorism, pre-emptive strikes and tit for tat killing. It seems that the nations are too ready to accept a state of constant conflict. Vested interests ensure that militarism continues to be the major response to international tensions and problems. Yet it need not be so. There are valid non-violent responses to injustice , oppression, and international disagreements.

There is a growing search for a spirituality which will bring us nearer to God and to each other. There is a longing in many people for a world of peace, justice and freedom. There is a desire across the religious faiths to seek unity within the family of humanity. The wars of the past

have not achieved the peace which many had hoped for. Now is a time for people across the world to say "No" to conflict, to violence, to war, to death and destruction, and a quiet but firm "Yes" to life and hope, to peace and love. Now is a time for healing a broken world through a common commitment to peace and justice . May God guide us on that journey of faith.

### **Prayer**

Loving Spirit,  
the city can be such a place of sadness  
when there is hatred, envy, enmity and greed,  
which breaks out into violence and killing.  
The nations can be places of despair  
when there is conflict, persecution and hostility,  
resulting in genocide and war.  
May your river of life flow through our cities;  
may the leaves of the tree of life  
be a sign for the healing of the nations.  
May there be an end to the sorrow of the past  
and the beginning of celebration for the future.

### **Psalm Response. Ps.103. 1 - 4**

L: Praise be to God, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise God's holy name.

R: Praise be to God, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits.

L: He forgives all my sins  
and heals all my diseases;

R: he redeems my life from the pit  
and crowns me with love and compassion.

### **Universal Prayer for Peace**

God, lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth;

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust;

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

Peace Peace Peace

**Hymn - Put peace into each other's hands. ( Fred Kaan.)**

**Benediction**

Go into a world of need to speak a word of hope  
Go into a world of hunger to respond with compassion  
Go into a broken world to witness to Christ's healing  
The peace of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
fill your heart and mind today and always.

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