

# Lent 2023 - Week 4

## Peacemakers - Persecuted

Let us Pray

please join in with words in bold

May the Lord Almighty gather us into His Kingdom as we seek to follow Christ our Lord and Saviour, and as we turn away from all that is wrong.

**Most merciful God, we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.  
Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ.  
Amen.**

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
**so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.  
Amen**

Song

Lord make me an instrument of your peace

*Sarah McLachlan Copyright © 1996 Nettwerk*

*Lord make me an instrument of your  
peace,  
Where there is hatred let me sow  
love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine master grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled as to  
console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive-  
it is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned.  
And it's in dying that we are born to  
eternal life.  
Amen*

## The Beatitudes

Jesus said:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,

**for they will be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek,

**for they will inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**for they will be filled.**

Blessed are the merciful,

**for they will be shown mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,

**for they will see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,

**for they will be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

## Reflections from last week

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:11-18

Christ is our Peace

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—<sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were

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separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

## Reflection – Peacemakers

### Our Lent Conversation – Part 1

What is peace? What makes peace Good? Are there kinds of peace which are undesirable?

What day to day situations might require you to be a peacemaker?

What kind of qualities might a peacemaker have? How do you go about making peace?

Why might peacemakers in particular be called ‘children of God’?

### Bible Reading: Matt 10:34-39

<sup>34</sup> “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

<sup>36</sup> a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”<sup>[C]</sup>

<sup>37</sup> “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

## Reflection – Persecuted

### Our Lent Conversation – part 2

Why might righteousness be met with persecution? What forms might this take?

Are British Christians ever persecuted for righteousness' sake? If so, how? If not, how does this beatitude apply to us?

This beatitude carries the same promise as the first one (blessed are the poor in spirit). Are there any other links between them?

## Psalm 120

**A song of ascents.**

**<sup>1</sup>I call on the Lord in my distress,  
and he answers me.**

**<sup>2</sup>Save me, Lord,  
from lying lips  
and from deceitful tongues.**

**<sup>3</sup>What will he do to you,  
and what more besides,  
you deceitful tongue?**

**<sup>4</sup>He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows,  
with burning coals of the broom bush.**

**<sup>5</sup>Woe to me that I dwell in Meshek,  
that I live among the tents of Kedar!**

**<sup>6</sup>Too long have I lived  
among those who hate peace.**

**<sup>7</sup>I am for peace;  
but when I speak, they are for war.**

## Song

## Christ is mine forevermore

Lyrics: Rich Thompson & Jonny Robinson. Performance: CityAlight ©2016 Cityalight Music

*Mine are days that God has  
numbered  
I was made to walk with Him  
Yet I look for worldly treasure  
And forsake the King of kings  
But mine is hope in my Redeemer  
Though I fall, His love is sure  
For Christ has paid for every failing  
I am His forevermore*

*Mine are tears in times of sorrow  
Darkness not yet understood  
Through the valley I must travel  
Where I see no earthly good  
But mine is peace that flows from  
Heaven  
And the strength in times of need  
I know my pain will not be wasted  
Christ completes his work in me*

*Mine are days here as a stranger  
Pilgrim on a narrow way  
One with Christ I will encounter  
Harm and hatred for His name  
But mine is armour for this battle  
Strong enough to last the war  
And He has said He will deliver  
Safely to the golden shore*

*And mine are keys to Zion city  
Where beside the King I walk  
For there my heart has found its  
treasure  
Christ is mine forevermore*

*Come rejoice now, O my soul  
For His love is my reward  
Fear is gone and hope is sure  
Christ is mine forevermore*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

**Amen.**