

Canadian Council of Churches

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Ecumenical Prayer Vigil for Peace

Saturday 22 March 2003

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Sponsored by the

The Canadian Council of Churches

Held at

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral
65 Bond Street, Toronto, Ontario



"Lord, make us instruments of your peace."

Welcome!

We begin in a darkened church, waiting in silence. Please stand as representatives from the twenty Christian denominations associated with the Canadian Council of Churches process in, receive the light of Christ, and share that light with all here assembled.

We kindly request that you refrain from taking photographs or videos during the opening service of light (until the congregation's tapers are blown out) for the safety of those participating and for the prayerfulness of the service.

On behalf of His Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic, I wish to extend a warm and personal welcome to the participating members of the Canadian Council of Churches and to all who have gathered here at St. Michael's Cathedral Church for this timely ecumenical prayer service for peace.

The cathedral's mission is one of preaching, prayer and service with the people of God, especially with and for the poor. We consider this a singular opportunity to join together with you in this prayer for peace.

It is my hope that this shared time will bring God's special grace upon us and upon the world.

Msgr. Sam Bianco
Rector, St. Michael's Cathedral

On behalf of the Canadian Council of Churches and especially its President, Bishop André Vallée, I welcome you to this service of prayer, music and light in defiance of darkness. Your prayers are very important this day and in the days to come, we are thankful that you are here and thankful indeed for all the commitment of St. Michael's Cathedral to this event of witness in the name of the Prince of Peace.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton
General Secretary
The Canadian Council of Churches

Gathering Song

Rev. Philip Heinze

Gathering Prayer

Bishop John Boissonneau
Lord, all powerful God and Prince of Peace, we beseech you, hear the prayers of those who are gathered in your name. We come here today affirming our faith in you, who are our shepherd, rich in mercy and compassion; for you do not delight in the destruction of your creation, but seek to uphold the noble image of humankind which your hands have fashioned.

We employ you now to inspire good things in the hearts of those who desire conflict and strife. Shower tranquility, peace and reconciliation in a world troubled and grieved by the evidence of instability and war. We ask this in Jesus' Name through the power of the Holy Spirit, one God now and always. Amen.

Litanies of Confession

(based on Psalm 8 and from Prayers for Peace and Justice – RCA)

Rev. Siebrand Wilitz, Rev. Kevin Livingstone,
Rt. Rev. Maurice Hicks, Deacon Nurhan Ipek

Holy God,
You lead us in ways that are right and true.
Your mercies are beyond compare.
You breathe upon Creation the Spirit of Peace.
As we gather, help us to recognize the things that make for peace
in our lives and in your world.
As we approach you in worship,
may your presence of Grace and Peace be with us.
Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

L. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
C. You have set your glory above the heavens.

L. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the
moon and stars, which you have set in place, what are human
beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for
them?

**C. You made them a little lower than the heavenly beings and
crowned them with glory and honour.**

L. You made them ruler over the works of your hands; you put
everything under their feet.
**C. In love you have fashioned the human family in a variety of
races, languages and cultures.**

L. Do not let our diversity divide us, but help us to welcome gifts we
can give and receive from one another.
**C. Save us from prejudice, arrogance and fear and teach us
how to live together as members of one family, sharing one
home.**

L. We pray for all those from whom we are estranged.
C. Bring healing to strained and broken relationships.

L. Forgive us for the times we have wronged others, whether by
ignorance, neglect or intention.

**C. Grant us the courage and the grace to seek their forgiveness
and opportunity to make amends.**

L. Where others have wronged us, grant us a gracious spirit that we
might forgive even as we have been forgiven in Jesus Christ.
**C. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to trust your power to
change our lives, and the lives of our leaders so that all of us
may live in peace.**

L. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
C. Amen!

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. William Veenstra
L. I will make for you a covenant on that day says the Lord, and I
will take you for my own in faithfulness. I will make for you a
covenant with the wild animals, the birds of the air, the creeping
things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and
war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. I will
take you for my own forever; I will take you for my own
righteousness and justice, in steadfast love and mercy. (Based on
Hosea 2: 18 – 20)

Please extinguish candle/s and be seated.

Responsive Reading

Rev. John Furry, Fr. Messale Engeda
L. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have
kissed. (Psalm 85:10)
**C. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who
publish peace.** (*Isaiah 52:7*)

L. For you shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the
mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (*Isaiah 55:12*)
**C. Some trust in their war chariots and others in their horses,
but we trust in the power of the Lord our God.** (*Psalms 20:7*)

L. God shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for
strong nations far off; and they shall beat their swords into
plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not
lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
(*Micah 4:3*)

- C. But they shall sit every one under his vine and under her fig tree, and none shall make them afraid. For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.** (*Micah 4:4*)
- L. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. (*Isaiah 11:6*)
- C. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.** (*Isaiah 9:6*)

- R2 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."
- R1 No, "if your enemies are hungry feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."
- C. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.** (*Isaiah 9:6*)

All: Seek peace and pursue it. (*Psalm 34:14*)

Reading: Isaiah 11:6-9

Ann Green Stainton

Silence

Please stand.

Music Response: O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines

Shalom haberim, shalom haberim, shalom, shalom.
Lehitraot, lehitraot, shalom, shalom.
Que seas feliz, que seas feliz, shalom, shalom.
Que encuentres la paz, que encuentres la paz, shalom, shalom.
Que encuentres la paz en todo lugar, shalom, shalom.
Que Dios viva en ti, que Dios viva en ti, shalom, shalom.

Responsive Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Anne Mitchell, Rev. Carol Penner

R1 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.

R2 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, extend hospitality to strangers.

C. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. **Do not repay evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.**

Song

Toronto Mennonite New Life Centre

Sung Response: Shalom

Toronto Mennonite New Life Centre

Prayer for Peace

Archbishop Yuriij

Gospel Antiphon. Please stand.
Praise to you, Lord, King of eternal glory.

L. The Lord be with you.
C. And also with you.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Bishop John Boissonneau

Intercessory Prayers
*Fr. Ammonius Guirguis, Dr. Richard Schneider,
Fr. Damir Benko, Col. Boyde Goulding*

Response: Hear us, O Lord.

Please be seated.

Offerings

A collection will be taken up, with the proceeds to be sent through the churches to help alleviate suffering from AIDS/HIV in African countries.

Please stand.

Lord's Prayer

Rev. John Young-Jung Lee

Sign of Peace

Bishop George Elliott

Please be seated.

Words of Greeting

On behalf of St. Michael's Cathedral: Msgr. Sam Bianco

On behalf of the Canadian Council of Churches: Karen McKay-Llewellyn, Vice-President

*Please rise for
Final blessing and dismissal*

Bishop John Boissonneau

- L. Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.
C. Amen.
- L. May his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
C. Amen.
- L. May he look upon you with kindness, and give you his peace.
C. Amen.

- L. Let us go in the Peace and Joy of Christ, ready to carry his light into the world.
- C. **Thanks be to God!**

Final Hymn
John B. Foley

Prayer for St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred... let me sow love.
Where there is injury... pardon.
Where there is discord... unity.
Where there is doubt... faith.
Where there is error... truth.
Where there is despair... hope.
Where there is sadness... joy.
Where there is darkness... light.

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 giving... that we receive.
It is in pardoning... that we are pardoned.
It is in dying... that we are born to eternal life.

All are most cordially invited to join us for an informal reception
in the hall across the street.

This prayer service has been sponsored by The Canadian Council of Churches, which brings together 19 different Christian denominations. Founded in 1944, it is a forum for consultation, cooperation and common witness among member churches. The Council is a registered charity. On behalf of the Council, this service has been coordinated by The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary, and by Dr. Mary Marrocco, Associate Secretary, Faith and Witness.

Masters of Ceremonies:

The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary, Canadian Council of Churches

Fr. Damian MacPherson, Director, Office of Ecumenism and Interfaith Affairs, Archdiocese of Toronto

We are most grateful to the following official representatives of our churches:

Fr. Dimir Benko, Polish National Catholic Church
The Most Rev. John A. Boissonneau, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
The Rt. Rev. George H. Elliott, The Anglican Church of Canada
Fr. Messale Engeda, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church of Canada

The Rev. John Furry, Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec
Colonel Boyde R. Goulding, The Salvation Army
Fr. Ammonius Guirguis, The Coptic Orthodox Church of Canada
The Rev. Phil Heinze, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
The Rt. Rev. Maurice Hicks, British Methodist Episcopal Church
Deacon Nurhan Ipek, Canadian Diocese of the Armenian Orthodox Church

Fr. Pavlos Koumarians, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada)

The Rev. John Young-Jung Lee, The United Church of Canada
The Rev. Kevin Livingstone, The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Anne Mitchell, The Religious Society of Friends, Canadian Yearly Meeting

The Rev. Carol Penner, Mennonite Church Canada
Dr. Richard Schneider, Orthodox Church in America
Ann Green Stainton, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Rev. William Veenstra, Christian Reformed Church in North America
The Rev. Siebrand Wiltz, Reformed Church in Canada
His Eminence Archbishop Yurij, Bishop of Toronto and the Eastern Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following church representatives, who devoted their time and energies to planning the service:

Fr. Dimir Benko, The Rev. Jim Czegledi, Ms. Sandra Elgersma, The Rev. John Furry, The Rev. Patricia Giannelia, Fr. Pavlos Koumarians, The Rev. John Young-Jung Lee, Anne Mitchell, The Rev. Canon Harold Nahabedian, The Rev. William Osborne, The Rev.

Carol Penner, Ann Green Stainton, The Rev. Siebrand Wiltz,
Archbishop Yurij

Many thanks to The Rev. Dr. Lillian Perigoe, for all her vision, creativity, and planning work; and to Ms. Anne Marie Rodrigue for her dedicated labour in contacting and re-contacting the many participants in this service.

A special thank you to Fr. Damian MacPherson whose enthusiastic spirit, creativity, open heart, coordinating work, and dedication of time have been an indispensable building-block for this service.

Our deep appreciation also to the many musicians who offered their skills and talents for this service:

Drummer: Todd Portor
Liturgical Dancers: Elain Doviau, Alexandra Jinenez, and Cesar Perez.
Violinist: Jonathan Der
Flautist: Paul Gray
Choir: The Toronto Mennonite New Life Centre
Cantor: Gab Desmond
Organist: Joshua Tamayo

A small, dedicated group of women has given their time, labour and skill to creating the reception in the hall; for this, we thank: Laetitia Msowoya and the Catholic Women's League of St. Michael's Cathedral; Jean Stinson and volunteers from Metropolitan United Church; and members of the United Church Women. Our thanks go also to Linda Rayner (Manager) and Gaby Fanelli (Coordinator) of the Food Services department at St. Michael's Health Care Centre, for supplying us with materials for the reception; and to Janice Lane, Manager, Dominion Food Store (Gould St.) for help in supplying refreshments.

And we especially thank Msgr. Sam Bianco and the staff and people of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral, whose hospitality in welcoming us to their beautiful home has been open and unstinting.

Thank you for joining us!