

Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

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Music by William Ferguson.

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BENEDICTUS
contemplative church

EASTER 5
14 MAY 2022
AND WAR BROKE OUT
IN HEAVEN

CLOSING RESPONSES

Come Lord and save
your creation from evil
your world from corruption
your earth from oppression

Come Lord and save
your children from captivity
your people from injustice
your image from darkness

BLESSING

May the power of God enable you,
the nakedness of God disarm you,
the beauty of God amaze you,
the justice of God give you voice;
may the integrity of God hold you,
the desire of God move in you,
the fierceness of God lead you to truth,
the breath of God give you abundant life.

Janet Morley (adapted)

And the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit of Life,
be among us and remain with us always.
Amen

*We invite contributions to the ministry of
Benedictus through the retiring collection
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Sources: David Adam, *Tides and Seasons* (SPCK, 1989); Janet
Morley, *All Desires Known* (Morehouse Publishing, 2006).

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WELCOME – Sarah Bachelard

Christ is risen, alleluia!
He is risen indeed, alleluia!

OPENING RESPONSES

*If I should walk in the valley of darkness,
no evil I will fear.*

Psalm 23.4

To prisoners – **freedom**
To the blind – **sight**
To the silenced – **the Word**
To the lost – **the Way**
To the sick – **health**
To the sorrowing – **joy**
To the despairing – **hope**
To the troubled – **peace**
To the poor – **abundance**
To the dead – **life**

Alleluia, come Lord, come!

ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY

GATHERING PRAYER

Living One,
who was and is and is to come,
we come before you in our hope
and in our need. Be known to us
as we are known to you. **Amen**

SONG

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to nothing all he's done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
grant one mind to your flock on earth;
support us in our final strife,
and lead us out of death to life.

Words by Martin Luther 1483-1546. Tr. Catherine Winkworth.
Music 15th cent. 'Geistliche Lieder' 1543, of Martin Luther.

THE WORD OF GOD

Let us listen for the Word of God

Revelation 12. 7-12

REFLECTION

MEDITATION

To meditate, sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, interiorly begin to say a single word. We recommend the prayer-phrase, 'Maranatha'. Say it as four syllables of equal length. Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously. Do not think or imagine anything – spiritual or otherwise. If thoughts and images come, these are distractions at the time of meditation, so keep returning simply to saying the word.

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PRAYERS

Goodness is stronger than evil;

Love is stronger than hate;

Light is stronger than darkness;

Life is stronger than death.

Words by Desmond Tutu. Music by John Bell.

Living Lord, in this time of war we bring before you our horror and grief at the brutalisation of victims and perpetrators, the senseless destruction of beauty, civility and the creatures of earth, the

overwhelming futility of cruelty. We pray for those who have died and dealt death, those who are wounded in body and soul, for all who mourn and are afflicted.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. **Have mercy upon us.** (*Chant*)

Living Lord, in this time of social division and political extremism, we pray for those whose difference is weaponised and whose vulnerability is exploited. We bring before you our yearning that care may be extended to all, for an end to hate speech and the broadcasting of shock jocks, for repentance from cheap political point scoring, bullying and abuse.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. **Have mercy upon us.** (*Chant*)

Living Lord, in this time before the fullness of time, we bring before you a world in travail You have shown us what is good and true and lovely. By your grace, may we remain faithful to your way that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. **Have mercy upon us.** (*Chant*)

SONG

O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us,
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us,
and heal our strife-torn world.

Lord, strengthen all who labour
that all may find release
from fear of rattling sabre,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter
your servants undergird.