

Soul Space

at Tidmington Church



WORDS FOR WORSHIP IN A TIME OF WAR

Opening Sentences

Leader: Of God we ask,

All: What is the time?

There is a time to be born and a time to die.
There is a time to kill and a time to heal.

What is the time?

There is a time to weep and a time to laugh.
There is a time for mourning and a time for dancing.

What is the time?

There is a time to tear and a time to mend.
There is a time for silence and a time for speech.

What is the time?

There is a time to love and a time to hate.
There is a time for war
and a time for peace.

What is the time?

SILENCE IS KEPT



Reflection

Music: I'd take you out (Martyn Joseph)

For you I can't find mercy in my soul
And if I could I'd leave it well alone
My blood's on fire and I have no doubt
I'd lose my soul, but I'd take you out

Do the ghosts of their faces find their way into your dream?
Do they make you sweat, do they make you scream?
We'll see them rise to watch you fall
I'd raise my hand, I'd make that call

You are the thief of millions of lives
Broad strokes of evil and the king of lies
Though Jesus forgave the thief upon the cross
Looks like you and me are both men lost

Suffer you to come to me
In the dead of night to the furthest tree
I can only guess what that darkness might bring
But I'd string you up and I'd watch you swing

For you I can't find mercy in my soul
And if I could I would leave it well alone
And my blood's on fire and I have no doubt
I'd lose my soul, but I'd take you out
I'd lose my soul, but I'd take you out
Lose my soul, but I'd take you out



Leader: We are members of a family,
the human family
which, in the ancient land of Ukraine, is torn by tension,
suspicion, hatred, hunger, killing and death.
We are troubled by cruelty and disaster
such as we have never known,
and we are unclear of the cause
and unsure of the remedy.
We believe that God accepts confusion
as well as concern,
and has never been deaf to the cries
of anger, fear and hopelessness
in the face of injustice.

We are the Body of Christ
in which if one part suffers, the other parts pray
to heal it and help to bear it.

Prayer

Let us pray.

In you, our God,
is our hope and consolation.
Your love is beyond our deserving,
your wisdom is beyond our understanding,
your light is greater than our darkness.

We wish we could enter your presence
with songs of rejoicing;
but not here, not now.
Our hearts are heavy,
our minds bewildered,
Why?
and why?
and how long? and what next?
... these are the questions we bring,
not looking for instant answers,
but hoping that we will be heard.



Gracious God,
quieten our personal anxieties,
so that we may better feel
for those whose land has been invaded whose
towns and homes are ravaged,
and whose lives are under threat.
Quieten us,
so that we may listen for a word from you.
Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT

Second Reading from a recent news report, followed by silence

Psalm 20

This is a translation of a text the Czech people turned to when Russia invaded their nation in 1968.

A May God draw near when the hour of trouble strikes,
 may Jacob's God be your strength and shield;
 out of the sanctuary, out of his home,
 may God provide in your time of need.

B May God remember the sacrifice you make
 and take delight in the gifts you bring;
 may God respond to your heart's deep desire,
 and grant fulfilment to all your plans.

A With every blessing our mouths will shout for joy
 to celebrate what the Lord has done;
 and ever after when God shows you favour,
 in every triumph we'll trace his love.



B O let us know that the Lord is God indeed,
and grants success to his chosen ones.
From highest heaven, God answer our call
and bring us victory with your right hand.

A Some trust in weapons and some in skills of war,
but all we have is our faith in God.
They that are mighty shall stumble and fall
but we will rise and will overcome.

Song If the war goes on (Wild Goose Worship)

This song is based on the experience of people who lived through both the civil war in Argentina and the Falklands war..

If the war goes on
and the children die of hunger,
and the old men weep
for the young men are no more,
and the women learn
how to dance without a partner,
who will keep the score?

If the war goes on
and the truth is taken hostage,
and new horrors lead
to the need to euphemise;
when the calls for peace
are declared unpatriotic,
who'll expose the lies?

If the war goes on
and the daily bread is terror,
and the voiceless poor
take the road as refugees;
when a nation's pride
destines millions to be homeless,
who will heed their pleas?

If the war goes on
and the rich increase their fortunes,
as the arms sales soar
as new weapons are displayed;
when a fertile field
turns to no-man's-land tomorrow,
who'll approve such trade?

If the war goes on
will we close the doors to heaven;
if the war goes on
will we breach the gates of hell;
if the war goes on
will we ever be forgiven,
if the war goes on?

Prayers and lighting candles

As the music plays you are invited to come forward and light a candle for people or places for whom you would like to pray, or to sit quietly and pray in your seat.

Music includes Ave Verum (Mozart), Ukrainian Kyrie eleison (monody) (Kyiv Chamber choir)

Loving God,
because you have the whole world in your hands,
cradle gently those who are rocked by fear,
shocked to a depth they have never known
and frightened to face tomorrow.
On the people of Ukraine: their children, their old people,
their vulnerable adults,
their babies soon to be born,
Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy.



On the people of Ukraine:
their defenders, their advocates,
those who care for the wounded,
who sit with the despairing,
who witness and report
on the savagery and destruction, who bury the dead.
Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy.

On the people of Ukraine:
their leaders
that they may continue to inspire,
in word and by example,
and continue to receive help and solidarity
from across the world.
Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy.

On the people of Russia,
that they might learn the truth kept from their hearing;
On the churches in Russia that they might find
the vocabulary and courage
to speak truth to power,

On the soldiers of Russia who do not believe
in the carnage they cause.
Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy.

On the Russian president,
and those who affirm his policies,
we ask the judgement of heaven, a radical conversion
and an end to their lies, scheming and murder.
Lord hear us,
Lord graciously hear us.



And for our own nation
we ask for commitment to match conviction
so that the pain of the Ukrainian nation
be shared by us,
their weary people sheltered by us,
their peace assured by us.
Lord hear us,
Lord graciously hear us. Amen.

Closing Prayer a prayer of St Augustine

Watch now, dear Lord,
with those who wake or watch or weep tonight;
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

**Tend your wounded ones, O Christ;
rest your weary ones,
bless your dying ones,
soothe your suffering ones,
shield your joyous ones and all for your love's sake.
Amen**

*As we leave, Miserere (Allegrì) is played.
Please stay for as long as you like, and leave quietly.*

*If you'd like to chat afterwards, please do so in the churchyard away
from the door as sound carries in the stillness.*

