

# 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.*

