



PRAY AND ACT FOR PEACE



Prayers Amidst the Headlines

God of Mercy, you have called us to perfection just as you are perfect;
Called us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.
Even when we take comfort in our own safety from persecution,
In our distance from our enemies,
We pray for those who persecute our neighbors far and near;
We pray for those whose enemies are close at hand this week:

As our Haitian neighbors lie exposed under your stars,
Grant relief from hunger, healing of trauma, comfort instead of sorrow.
As aid arrives in Haiti bristling with weapons powerless to defeat the true enemies,
Contrast the fearful guns with your disarming abundance.

In a world of suicide bombings where desperate cries turn to blind hatred,
Where hopeless vengeance brings an end to one life and many,
Strengthen victims to feed their enemy, to satisfy their thirst,
Give the courage to overcome evil with good.

When corporate principalities and powers violently drown out Appalachian voices,
And tear through mountains, livelihoods and lives;
When our demands for cheap energy enable violence against all your creation,
Forgive us where we have become our neighbor's enemy and persecutor.

As war budgets increase and troops escalate
Teach us that war machines are a vain hope for victory,
That we are not saved by our armies or the strength of our warriors,
As our souls wait for you, Lord of Hosts, be our help and shield;
Let your mighty love be upon us, even as we hope for peace in you alone.

Written by Nicholas Detweiler-Stoddard, participant in Community Mennonite Church of Harrisonburg, VA and student at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.