



PRAY AND ACT FOR PEACE



We are listening

Written after walking beneath groves of Sequoia, Redwood, and eucalyptus trees in Oakland, CA city parks.

See Psalms 65,82 and Micah 6:8

Great and loving God,
you have set us to work with you for good
in the midst of great beauty and great evil.
In your world we are dwarfed by giant trees
whose thick limbs stretch out shelter and shade
and breathe out oxygen and scents that please the creatures who walk beneath them.
We stare at the ocean, stretching beyond our seeing, endlessly crashing in, pulling
back.

And we are dwarfed by the scale and depth of human grief and sin.
We are choked by the number of people our armies have killed.
We stare at our screens
without hope and without answers for our children, who are watching
other fathers and mothers and other children walking across borders
for relief from hunger, for freedom from fear.

We pray for them, we bring suffering before you,
a reflex like reaching for the lamp when the phone rings
in the middle of the night.

And we have been taught, “When you pray, move your feet.”

How shall we walk, O Lover of all you have made?
How shall we love mercy,
we who are so small in the face of all that is?
How shall we do justice,
God of the friendless, the moneyless,
the landless, the motherless?

You are the source of all well-being
and the hope of all the earth.
Creator of life, ancient and surprising,
we are listening.

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