

Ordinary Lives in Extraordinary Times

Prayers in a Time of War

by
Mary H. Schertz

Compassionate and gracious God, in these days of darkness,
when the forces of destruction are unleashed in the world,
we come to you,
not knowing what else we can do
but throw ourselves upon your mercy.

We place into your care all who are affected and afflicted
by the war in Iraq—
those who are fighting,
those who are fleeing,
those who are wounded, orphaned,
homeless, hungry, dying.

Grant us the strength, O God, to pray, with Zecharia, so long ago:
“By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Amen.



Mary H. Schertz, *Professor of New Testament and Director of the Institute of Mennonite Studies at AMBS, Elkhart, IN*; Design: Nathan L. Rittenhouse, *Mennonite Church USA Peace and Justice Support Network volunteer*; Susan Mark Landis, *peace advocate, Executive Board*, 330-683-6844; SusanML@MennoniteUSA.org. For additional ideas to respond to these times, see <http://peace.MennoLink.org>

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