

Holy God, open our eyes to a fresh vision of a peaceful world, along with the will to seek alternatives to revenge and violence. Awaken in us compassion for the victims of war: soldiers of all nations, grieving families, civilians, the wounded creation. Open wide the eyes of world leaders, especially in our own country, to see a path toward peace between Ukraine and Russia, and in all conflicts that tear apart the one human family. Grant us eyes wide open to peace. Amen.

The Rev. Bill Exner,  
former EPF Vice Chair for Public Witness



# Psalm 33 v 10-18

The Lord foils the plans of the nations;

he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

11 But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.

13 From heaven the Lord looks down  
and sees all mankind;

14 from his dwelling place he watches  
all who live on earth—

15 he who forms the hearts of all,  
who considers everything they do.

16 No king is saved by the size of his army;  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.

17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
despite all its great strength it cannot save.

18 But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,  
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

# O where shall peace be found?

## *Christopher Idle*

O where shall peace be found,  
and where an end to slaughter,  
all lands be holy ground,  
all peoples free from murder?  
Where weapons are unmade  
the prophet's word comes true,  
and none shall be afraid  
when God makes all things new.

The mountain of the Lord  
shall rise above all others;  
in Christ we are restored  
as neighbours, sisters, brothers:  
our grey machines of death  
are turned to nobler use  
when over all the earth  
his kingdom is let loose.

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Disturb us, O Lord

when we are too well-pleased with ourselves  
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,  
because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord

when with the abundance of things we possess,  
we have lost our thirst for the water of life  
when, having fallen in love with time,  
we have ceased to dream of eternity

and in our efforts to build a new earth,  
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord

to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas  
where storms show Thy mastery,  
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons  
of our hopes

and invited the brave to follow.

Amen

# Litany for Peace

For supporting the manufacture of arms including weapons of mass destruction through the payment of our taxes

**Father forgive us**

For the unrelieved suffering and hardship which money spent on arms could heal

**Father forgive us**

For threatening to commit genocide by holding nuclear weapons as a deterrent and supporting those of others

**Father forgive us**

For half-heartedness in hearing, living and sharing the way of peace

**Father forgive us**

For dividing the world into good and bad, and treating human beings as enemies and objects of hatred or scorn

**Father forgive us**

# The War Machine

1) In eastern skies the great hawks fly  
over bloodied hills where children die,  
And the instruments of tyranny  
Were bought from Britain plc  
As the war machine rolls round.  
And the war machine rolls round and round,  
and the poor and the weak get trampled on the  
ground,  
and from where we stand their cries are  
drowned  
by the clink and the clank of the dollar and the  
pound  
as the war machine rolls round.

2) We've an industry that lives and thrives  
Making tools to shatter human lives,  
And our honest workers ply their skill  
Helping distant tyrants maim and kill  
As the war machine rolls round.  
And the war machine rolls round and  
round,  
and the poor and the weak get trampled  
on the ground,  
and from where we stand their cries are  
drowned  
by the clink and the clank of the dollar  
and the pound  
as the war machine rolls round

3) And the industry grows more and more,  
Adding nuclear weapons to its store,  
And they plan to plant them in this land,  
Though the world agrees they should be banned  
As the war machine rolls round.  
And the war machine rolls round and round,  
and the poor and the weak get trampled on the ground,  
and from where we stand their cries are drowned  
by the clink and the clank of the dollar and the pound  
as the war machine rolls round.

4) It is time to raise our voice and say  
We must take this nuclear threat away.  
We must keep our word to make it cease,  
For the world can never live in peace  
While the war machine rolls round.  
And the war machine rolls round and round,  
and the poor and the weak get trampled on the ground,  
and from where we stand their cries are drowned  
by the clink and the clank of the dollar and the pound  
as the war machine rolls round.

# COVENTRY LITANY

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

**Father, forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

**Father, forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

**Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

**Father, forgive.**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

**Father, forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

**Father, forgive.**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

**Father, forgive.**

*Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*