



May PEACE
prevail
on EARTH

PRAYER VIGIL FOR HEALING AND HOPE
Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton
Monday, 18 March 2019

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of Christ the King.

Since its dedication on the Feast of St James (25 July) in 1884, the Cathedral has had a special role in the City of Grafton and also in the life of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton, whose parishes, schools and other agencies serve communities throughout the North Coast of New South Wales.

The Cathedral stands on the traditional lands of the Bundjalung nation. We acknowledge and pay our respect to their elders past and present, as well as to indigenous people with us today.

As followers of Jesus, we seek the peace and well-being of our nation, and especially our local community.

On this occasion we gather in response to the tragic violence perpetrated against the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand. We stand in solidarity with them and we seek wisdom and strength for ourselves as we build a community that is resilient and compassionate.

Whether you are Anglican, from another Christian Church or from another faith tradition, you are warmly welcome to take part in this prayer vigil.

The Cathedral is open every day. Free WIFI is available in the Cathedral and throughout our gardens.

You are always welcome to use the Cathedral and its grounds for prayer and reflection, and we encourage you to make this House of Prayer a place of pilgrimage and prayer for our City.



Visit the Cathedral web site for the latest news and information

www.graftoncathedral.org.au

COMMUNITY PRAYER VIGIL
IN COMPASSIONATE SOLIDARITY
WITH THE PEOPLE OF CHRISTCHURCH
AND ALL WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY
THIS TRAGIC VIOLENCE

Welcome to Country

A call to compassionate solidarity

[Dean of Grafton]

One: We come together with hearts wide open in love.

All: **We come ready to nourish our spirits
and renew our commitment to peace.**

One: We come together as peace bearers and peacemakers.

All: **May we bear peace in our hearts
and be peacemakers in our communities.**

One: Come, let us celebrate God's presence among us, an unending source of peace and compassion.

All: **Praise be to God, who calls us to pursue peace for the benefit
of all creation.**

Jennifer Watts

SONG: *When pain and terror strike by chance* [TIS 262]

**When pain and terror strike by chance,
with causes unexplained,
when God seems absent or asleep,
and evil unrestrained,
we crave and all-controlling force
ready to rule and warn,
but find, far-shadowed by a cross,
a child in weakness born.**

**We marvel at God's nakedness
and sense the play of chance
in Herod's anger, Peter's growth,
and Pilate's troubled glance.
Our Saviour's tempted, tested way
never was cut and dried,
but costly, risking life and love,
betrayed and crucified.**

**How deep the wisdom of our God,
how weak, but truly wise,
to risk, to sacrifice, to die,
and from the grave arise,
to shed the shroud of death and fate,
freeing our hearts for good.
We breathe the ample air of hope
and take our chance with God.**

**Since Wisdom took its chance on earth,
to show God's living way,
we'll trust that fear and force will fail,
and Wisdom win the day.
Then come, dear Christ, and hold us fast
when faith and hope are torn,
and bring us, in your loving arms,
to resurrection morn.**

Listening to Scripture

A Psalm of Lament and Hope from the Jewish tradition

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.
Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.
Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.
I believe that I shall see
the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!”
(Psalm 27:1–14 NRSV)

A reading from the Holy Qur'an

Because of that We ordained for the Children of Israel: that whoever kills a person—unless it is for murder or corruption on earth—it is as if he killed the whole of mankind; and whoever saves it, it is as if he saved the whole of mankind. Our messengers came to them with clarifications, but even after that, many of them continue to commit excesses in the land.

(Sura 5:32 al-Ma'idah – The Table)

A reading from the Gospel of John

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

(John 15:12–17 NRSV)

Reflection

[Pastor Greg Holder]

The Peace Prayer

Lord,
make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love; F
or it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

Attributed to St Francis of Assisi

Community Leaders

Cr Jim Simmons, Mayor of Grafton
Mr Kevin Hogan, Federal Member for Page
Mr Chris Gulaptis, State Member of Clarence

Light a Candle against the Darkness



You are invited to light a candle or place a floral tribute at one of the prayers stations around the Cathedral.

Reflective music will invite us to hold those for whom we pray in the light of God's love.

Prayers of Solidarity and Compassion

God of the suffering,
our prayers this day are for the people of Christ Church,
and especially for the Muslim community in that city,
in their pain and grief
in the midst of evil.

We pray for
those mourning the loss of loved ones;
neighbours stricken by the loss of friends;
lovers torn apart through shocking violence.

We pray for those who now begin the long road to recovery:
those deeply injured and fighting for life;
those who have witnessed unspeakable horrors;
those who heroically sought to save lives
and those already working to rekindle the embers of hope.

God of the suffering,
our prayers this day are for all who strive for peace
and for all those who are especially fearful this day.

We pray for peace makers
not the empty peace of keeping warring sides apart
but the deep peace in which enemies embrace.

We ask this in the name of your Son,
the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Concluding Prayer and Benediction

[Pastor Greg Holder]

SONG: *God! As with silent hearts we bring* [TIS 680]

**God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
how hate and war diminish humankind,
we pause, and seek in worship to increase
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.**

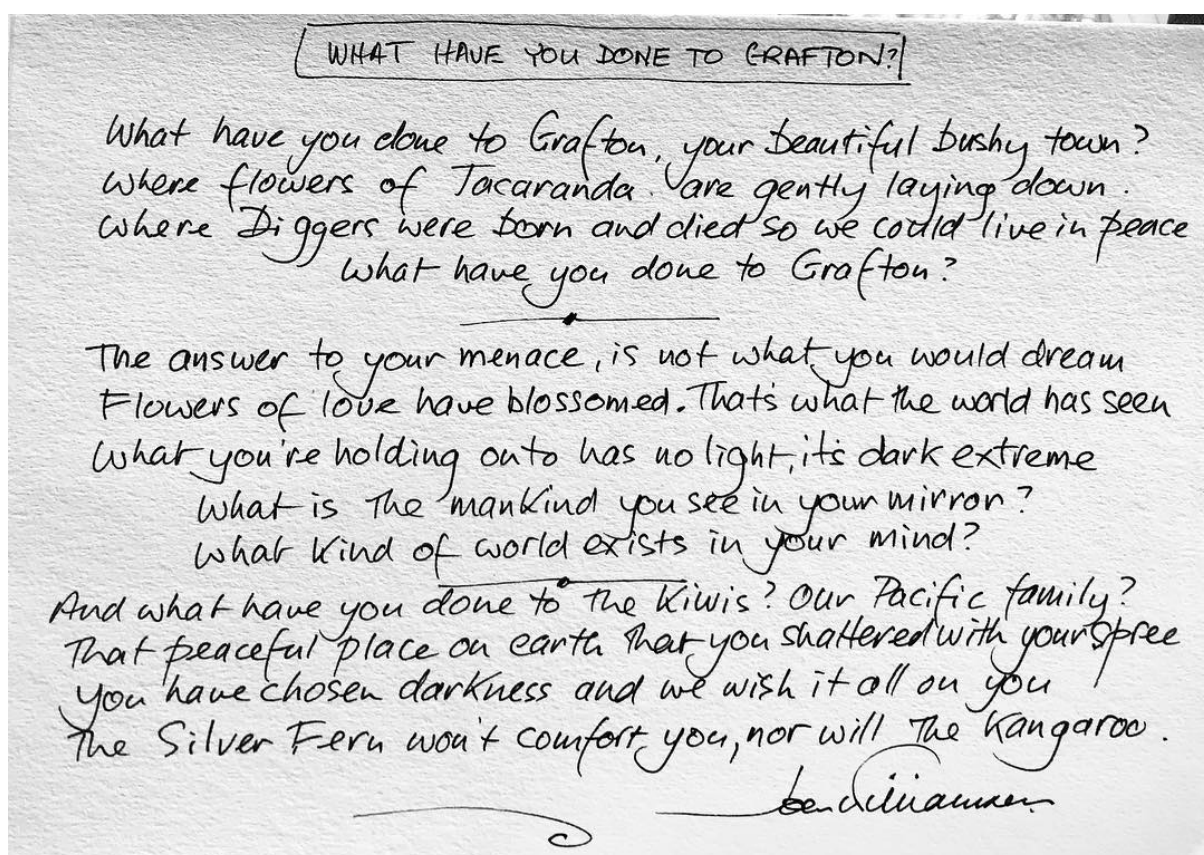
**Hallow our will as humbly we recall
the lives of those who gave and give their all.
We thank you, God, for women, children, men
who seek to serve in love, today as then.**

**Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,
high hope to share with all the newly-born,
strong love in our pursuit of human worth;
'lest we forget' the future of this earth.**

**So, God of peace, disarm our trust in power,
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.
May we, impassioned by your living Word,
remember forward to a world restored.**

Frederik Herman Kaan 1929 –

Thank you for participating in this prayer vigil



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The Charter for Compassion

www.charterforcompassion.org/charter

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.



Love and Peace (Houb Salaam)