

December 6, 2009



*actions of peace and service can illuminate our world*

## *Modeling peace and hope*



*Rooted in faith,  
called to action ♯  
De la foi à l'action*

This service was written by Eleanor Arless for the  
**Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**  
47 Queen's Park Crescent E., Toronto, ON M5S 2C3  
416-929-5184 416-929-4064 (fax)  
wicc@wicc.org www.wicc.org

## Preparation:

A peace table can be used for this service (or the altar). Place fourteen candles on it to represent the fourteen young women whose lives were lost to violence on December 6, 1989. The candles will be lit to offer peace and hope to their souls whose remnants dwell in all of us in memory.

## Preface:

On December 6, 1989 fourteen students left their homes, going about their daily lives. Little did these young women know their dream would be ended by a blast of gunfire. On that day, violence robbed their families, friends and society of their light of hope in this world.

Twenty years later we are still striving for the elimination of violence in our society. That is why it is important for us to gather as a community to remember those who have fallen and light candles for the hope of the elimination of violence in our country and our world. Often we are too overwhelmed to hope for peace, but we must start with ourselves - "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." We need to convert our sadness to action.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Call to Worship

**Leader:** We gather here as people of God to grieve and remember all women affected by violence, particularly the fourteen young women taken away from their chosen path in life twenty years ago.

**All: God of help, enlighten us to pray daily for peace and hope in this world. Instill in us your Holy Spirit so that we may become models of peace in this fragile and broken world.**

**Song:** *Let There Be Peace On Earth.*

*(Lighting of candles: each of the fourteen participants will advance to speak from the podium and to light a candle. This process is to be done, slowly and solemnly.)*

**Voice 1:** This candle is lit in memory of the fourteen women killed at l'École

# Peace is Flowing Like A River

1. PEACE IS FLOWING LIKE A RIVER FLOWING OUT OF YOU AND ME, FLOWING OUT INTO THE DESERT SETTING ALL THE CAPTIVES FREE.
2. HOPE IS FLOWING LIKE A RIVER FLOWING OUT OF YOU AND ME, FLOWING OUT INTO THE DESERT SETTING ALL THE CAPTIVES FREE.
3. HEALING'S FLOWING LIKE A RIVER FLOWING OUT OF YOU AND ME, FLOWING OUT INTO THE DESERT SETTING ALL THE CAPTIVES FREE.
4. LOVE IS FLOWING LIKE A RIVER FLOWING OUT OF YOU AND ME, FLOWING OUT INTO THE DESERT SETTING ALL THE CAPTIVES FREE

ALELLUIA, ALELLUIA, ALELLUIA, ALELLUIA

*Text: Unknown*

*Tune: Unknown; acc. by Diana Kodner, b. 1957, © 1993, GIA Publications Inc.*

not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. AMEN.

- Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

### The Greeting of Peace

**Leader:** We are the body of Christ

**All:** Christ's spirit is with us.

**Leader:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All:** And with your spirit

*The congregation exchanges the greeting of peace with one another.*

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 5: 1-12

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Closing Hymn:** *Peace Is Flowing Like A River*

## Let There Be Peace on Earth

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH, THE PEACE THAT WAS MEANT TO BE.

WITH GOD THE CREATOR, FAMILY ALL ARE WE; LET US WALK WITH EACH OTHER IN PERFECT HARMONY.

LET PEACE BEGIN WITH ME, LET THIS BE THE MOMENT NOW.

WITH EVERY STEP I TAKE, LET THIS BE MY SOLEMN VOW;

TO TAKE THIS MOMENT AND LIVE EACH MOMENT IN PEACE ETERNALLY.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.

*Text: Sy Miller, 1908 - 1941, Jill Jackson, ©1955, 1983, Jan-Lee Music*

*Tune: Sy Miller, 1908 - 1941, Jill Jackson © 1955, 1983, Jan-Lee Music; acc. by Diana Kodner, b. 1957, © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission*

Politechnique in Montreal on December 6, 1989.

- Voice 2:** This candle is lit for the victims of all subsequent outbursts of violence that have taken place in educational institutes around the world.
- Voice 3:** This candle is lit for all the women who are ensnared into trafficking and become vulnerable to acts of violence.
- Voice 4:** This candle is lit for all women victimized in their own homes by domestic violence.
- Voice 5:** This candle is lit for all our Aboriginal sisters who continue to live in an environment of violence.
- Voice 6:** This candle is lit for immigrant women who come from a culture of violence.
- Voice 7:** This candle is lit for all women and children who have fled to women's shelters. These women live in constant fear of what tomorrow may bring.
- Voice 8:** This candle is lit for all parents, that they may be models of peace and non-violence to their children.
- Voice 9:** This candle is lit for all women who suffer emotionally from verbal abuse.
- Voice 10:** This candle is lit for all the perpetrators of acts of violence and for their healing.
- Voice 11:** This candle is lit for poverty which leads to frustration and violence. This must be eradicated.
- Voice 12:** This candle is lit for politicians so that they may work towards a new vision of justice in our Canadian society.
- Voice 13:** This candle is lit that all educational institutions will enhance their Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution curriculum - to teach young people to live together in peace.

#### **Voice 14:** *A Poem for Peace*

To find peace one must be at peace with themselves;  
To find peace there should be no conflict that can involve violence;  
To find peace there should always be a solution to solve a problem;  
To find peace one must desire peace;  
To have peace in this world one must strive hard in order to achieve peace;  
With peace there should be no more violence, anger, hatred, war, families torn apart, or anguish;  
With peace there will be unity, families are together, love is in the air, happiness is all around the world, and in our hearts as well.

- Jeffrey Liminsang

#### **Reflection:**

##### **One Peace At A Time**

'Tell me the weight of a snowflake,' a coal-mouse asked a wild dove.  
'Nothing more than nothing.' was the answer.  
'In that case I must tell you a marvellous story,' the coal-mouse said. 'I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not a giant blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch - nothing more than nothing, as you say - the branch broke off.'  
Having said that, the coal-mouse flew away.  
The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to her: 'Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come about in the world.'

- *New Fables Thus Spoke 'The Caribou'* by Kurt Kauter

#### *Silent reflection*

**Leader:** Let us pray

**All:** **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; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may**