

Where the prosperous profit from the poor
and families are caught in the spiral of debt;
where men are deprived of work and role
and women's labour is undervalued or invisible:

**God our hope and our deliverer,
shatter the rod of poverty
and let your light bring justice to our darkness.**

Where the strong bully and harass the weak
and the vulnerable are exploited and abused;
where war breeds cruelty and torture
and leaves hunger and homelessness in its wake:

**God our hope and our deliverer,
shatter the rod of violence
and let your light bring peace to our darkness.**

- Jan Berry

Closing Hymn: *Prepare the Way of God!* metre: 6686

**Prepare the way of God!
Make straight the royal way.**

A choir of voices shall proclaim the advent of God's day.

Each valley shall be filled, and hill and mount made low.

The crooked places shall be straight, and smooth the roughest road.

**A single voice shall cry upon the Jordan's shore
and speak the words that bring just peace
to us, for evermore.**

**Prepare the way of God! Make straight the royal way.
A choir of angels shall proclaim
the peace of God's new day.**

Text: Michael Jacob Kooiman

SENDING FORTH/BLESSING

Let us hold our light out to the world and let people of all nations
feel the warmth of God's love this holy season
of expectation, anticipation and participation,

**as we encounter together the Word made flesh
through Christ our Lord.**

Follow, where the Spirit of hope leads;
listen, as the Child of Peace cries out;
rejoice, as the love of God embraces us;

**and let us go with the blessing of Creator, Child, and Spirit
forever within us. Amen.**

- Richard Becher

www.partera.ca



An Advent 2 Peace Liturgy *By Partera Peacebuilders International*



Partera International is a faith-based peace-building organization that conducts conflict transformation education and training in various places around the world as well as at home. We are based in Canada with a bi-national Board of Directors. Partera is Spanish for "midwife" and speaks of our hope to aid the birth of peace among and alongside all life on Earth. We share this brief liturgical resource for worship and/or small group use as an expression of our longing to see God's peaceable will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven, given life by midwives of peace and disciples of the One who was God's Peace-Made-Flesh. It is intended for use on the second Sunday of Advent, traditionally understood as Peace Sunday, Dec. 10th, 2017.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, this is earth's quiet season,
the season of waiting.

We seek to rest in the shelter of your love.

This is the season of growing darkness,
as we wait for stars to guide us.

We seek to trust in the light of your promise.

This is the season of solitude,
when we listen for our own heart's rhythm.

We seek warmth in the signs of your presence.

This is our season to make room,
a time to make ready.

For we seek to soon join in the angels' chorus.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all.

OPENING HYMN: *To a World So Torn and Tortured*
To a world so torn and tortured
came the voice of one who knew
what it cost to lift oppression,
challenge the accepted view.

John convicted crowds before him,
charged hypocrisy with God;

opened up the way for Jesus,
who would follow where he trod.

Then imprisoned, John was silenced;
yet a voice more vibrant still
challenged in and out of season
all who heard to do God's will.

Living, Christ would lift oppression;
dying, he would seem to fail;
crying out in desolation,
yet God's love would still prevail.

Text: Andrew Pratt, metre: 8787

READINGS: Isaiah 40: 1-11
Mark 1: 1-8

A REFLECTION ON ISAIAH 40

A voice
howling in the night wolf's hunger,
screaming in the cry of the owl,
in the squeal of the beast;
dying under the predator's claw,
in the wail of the wind
whistling in the wilderness
*"Here is where God will come!
This will be the road for our God!"*

A voice
singing in the mother's long lullaby:
"Comfort, comfort,"
tenderly spoken for pains past,
soothing the hurt, starting the healing.
All over now. All done.



A voice
calling from the high place:
"God, God alone is constant."

God speaks always
the word for the time,
tender as a shepherd
when the lambs are weak,
the ewes weary;
stern as the judge
pronouncing sentence
for the squandering of creation's peace.

A voice
howling in the night wolf's hunger,
screaming in the cry of the owl,
in the squeal of the beast;
dying under the predator's claw,
in the wail of the wind
whistling in the wilderness
*"Here is where God will come!
This will be the road for our God!"*

God, we hear you
in the dark, desolate place;
in the quiet, intimate place;
on the high hill and deep in the heart;
Crying out,
comforting, calling, challenging.
We hear you.

We hear your call to the waging of peace
in the midst of this world's sinful wages.
May we not just hear, but heed.

- Heather Pencavel, altered

LITANY PRAYER

Where people are denied dignity of name and culture,
abused, ridiculed or subtly excluded;
where race or class or gender
are used to deny rights and liberty:
**God our hope and our deliverer,
shatter the rod of prejudice
and let your light bring freedom to our darkness.**