

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL

11 JULY 2021

JESUS THE PRINCE OF PEACE REMEMBERING SREBRENICA PRAYER



We pray to almighty God,
May grievance become hope
May revenge become justice
May mothers' tears become prayer
Srebrenica never happens
to anyone, no where

VICTORY BELONGS TO JESUS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6V1-FAb3jmg>

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Jesus left the glory of heaven above. Jesus renounced his power of command. Jesus came to earth as a poor, hungry child. Jesus gave his life that we may live and now he is exalted on high.

All: At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Let us give ourselves in worship to the Lord.

Leader: Who is it we worship? Who is it we seek to follow?

All: The One who was in form God yet emptied himself, becoming a slave, born in human form.

Leader: We worship a slave? We worship one who gave up power?

All: Yes, and God exalts him for it, giving him the name that is above every name.

Leader: Then let every tongue confess

OPENING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord of all, we praise you that you are not bound by time or space or wood or stone but are present for us in all places and at all times. We worship you that

you did not remain apart and aloof, but you chose to come to earth as one of us. You put aside your glory to lift us up because you count us your brothers and sisters.

Forgive us, Lord, when we forget who we are and to whom we belong. Forgive us when our expectations are low, when we fail to live into the great potential you hold out for us. Forgive us and scoop us up in love to remember and believe in the power you place with us the power of amazing love and grace that allow us, with you, to change the world. In our worship today, may we be renewed in love and power to live as children of the living God. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Twenty-six years ago this week, the systematic massacre of 8,372 men and boys took place at Srebrenica, in what was already a war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. Fifty years after the end of World War Two, when we naively thought that we had learned the lessons of the Holocaust and the genocides of the past, such an 'unthinkable' extermination took place. To our shame, the international community failed to intervene.

Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC, the Moderator of General Assembly of the Church of Scotland writes,

Today, it is as important as ever that we continue to remember what happened. Listening to accounts, it was frightening to learn just how quickly people who, for so long, had lived together in peace, could turn against their neighbour, on the basis of ethnic and religious identity.

Today there are still too many voices who would seek to sow division by exploiting difference. When we see or hear such prejudice and hate, good men and women surely do not have the option of doing nothing.

Rather, let us remember Srebrenica, with both shame and sadness. Let us resolve to challenge the kind of evil which would perpetrate such brutal inhumanity, and the indifference which allows such evil to fester. And let us commit ourselves to seek to break down barriers, and to work and pray for justice and reconciliation in our world. I invite congregations across the Church of Scotland to remember Srebrenica this weekend, and to light candles and pray accordingly.

For more information, prayers and other material on remembering Srebrenica visit <https://www.srebrenica.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Remembering-Srebrenica-Faith-Resources-Church.pdf>

BIBLE READINGS

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (Ephesians 2:14-18)

Tormented Hearts by Misba Sheikh

Sadness hangs over Srebrenica
Like a dark cloud
Ready to spill
Dark secrets.

Snowy white hills
Frozen,
Still tainted
By dark designs
of an evil man's dream.

Rivers flow as they always did
The sun sets and rises
On a land butchered,
Violated, desecrated.

The silence is penetrating,
Desperate.
Where is the outcry,
The indignation, the protest?

Women sit
in broken homes
Waiting for the wait to
end.

Praying someone might
Hear their story
As it murmurs through
The chilling landscape.

In the face of denial
Rages a truth undeniable.
Eyes that saw too much
Meet with eyes that saw
nothing.

Tormented hearts
Pause for a moment
At the smallest thought

are respected and valued, and where fear and mistrust can never overwhelm us nor vengeance be stirred in our hearts. Give peace we pray, to the people of Srebrenica; that their lives may be restored through your grace. Amen.

This prayer was written by Rev Julian Francis after the first Birmingham marking of Srebrenica Memorial Day on 9th July 2014

MAKE ME A CHANEL OF YOUR PEACE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihhvm6eLWZI>

Prayer

Lord God, you have given us all we need to live, and more. You have given us power and wisdom and all the resources of heaven and earth, yet we continue to live in scarcity. You withheld no good thing and yet we allow evil to triumph.

Lord, shake us up! Shake us up and pour us out to transform the world: transform the world with love; transform the world with justice; transform the world with peace; transform the world with hope; transform our lives with the compulsion to act differently, with the resolution that no child shall know hunger, that none shall know war, that all will have a place to call home.

Transform our minds and our hearts until we can do no other but harness the power of love that gives all for others and so reveal your power and glory in us. Lord, As You are One, You call us to this oneness yet we are so divided by what should unite us, our religious beliefs, diverse cultures, resources and desires. You also call us to care and nurture all creation, yet so often we generally treat it recklessly and out of greed. Teach us stewardship and how to touch the earth lightly for the benefit of all and generations to come.

Lord, continue to strengthen those taking such creative action in solving problems we humans so often have created. We continue to remember all who fear. Remember those experiencing natural disasters. Help us to reach out as need presents itself in all its forms. We have heard your Truth. Prompt us to act on it and live it in our daily choices and decisions. In Jesus' name Amen.

ALL MY PEACE - MARANATHA SINGERS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls01XGV7oA0>

BENEDICTION AND SUNG AMEN

Let us go in the power of Christ
to find all sorts of surprising
ways to serve God and our
neighbour, that all may know
Christ the Lord of all.



REMEMBERING SREBRENICA - A PRAYER

O God of truth and justice, we remember today the consequences of hatred in lives brutally

extinguished in hearts torn apart in memories scarred with pain. As we remember and honour the victims of hatred, lead us to sorrow over the sins of humanity. Draw close, we pray, to mothers and sisters, wives and grandmothers and all relatives and loved ones left behind, and heal the pain in their souls. And teach us, O Lord, to learn how to live for a world where differences

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Give peace we pray, to the people of Srebrenica; that their lives may be restored through your grace. Amen.

Birmingham marking of Srebrenica Memorial Day 2014
Rev Julian Francis