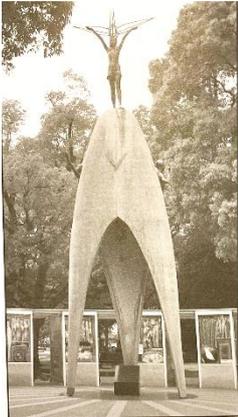


Children's Peace
Monument
at Hiroshima's Peace Park



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH
SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST 2025
SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World

Reflection: Janet Kay, Member, Woden Valley Uniting
Church, Presbytery Co-chair

Musician: Kay Hahne

Service prepared and led by the Social Action Group

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST PEOPLES

As we gather in this place, we give thanks for the Ngunnawal and Ngambri People. We acknowledge the commitment their ancestors made, across the generations, to nurturing this Land. Together, may we walk into the future, recognising the sacred footsteps that continue to lead us to the promise of Heaven.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this morning to remember our call;
To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.
We bring with us the events of the week in the world and in our lives,
Trying to know how to be just and loving and humble in the midst of it all.
We gather here, and see those who are doing justice, who are kind
beyond measure,
Who set the example for humility.
With gratitude for living saints, with thankfulness for the purpose of faith,
Let us worship God.

Beth Merrill Neel (Hold fast to what is good)

OPENING PRAYER

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog that we can see each other clearly.

So that we can see beyond the labels, beyond the accents, gender or skin colour.

Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness.

So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbours.

And let the light of the sun be strong that we will see all people as neighbours.

Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.

And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.

Rabbi Harold Kushner 2003

HYMN TIS 474 'Here in this place new light is streaming' (Gather us in)

BIBLE READING – Read by Joyce McGuire

James 3(13-18)

For wisdom that invites and inspires us,

We give thanks.

HYMN TIS 621 O God of every nation (Tune 595 Wolvercote)

CONTEMPORARY READING – Read by Mary and Bill Bush

The following words are those of Masahiro Sasaki, older brother of Sadako Sasaki. Sadako was diagnosed with "Atomic Bomb Disease" or as we call it leukaemia, 10 years after the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Sadako is well known for folding 1,000 origami cranes during her time in hospital before her death. The cranes have now become a symbol of peace. And the words of Masahiro written 10 years ago on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bomb dropping on Hiroshima.

More than seventy years have passed since the war ended. There is no point in discussing whether the use of the atomic bomb was right or not. The issue is what kind of ordeal the people of the world had to go through due to war. This should never be forgotten by any of the countries that participated. We need to teach our children the lesson that any war should not happen. The hearts of resentment and retaliation that can emerge from unforgettable experiences of the past should never be handed over to children who will hold the future in their hands. We must throw away our resentment. From hatred, only hatred and hearts of revenge will be born.

From The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes p.136

For wisdom that is amongst us now

We give thanks

ANTHEM: Make me a channel of your peace (TIS 607) (Channel of Peace)

REFLECTION – Janet Kay

Quiet time for reflecting

HYMN TIS 468 We are your people (Whitfield)

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD Marion McConnell

OFFERING

As we present our offerings today, we give thanks that we are able to share the abundant gifts that have been bestowed on us. May these gifts be used to spread love and peace, bringing hope and healing to a world in need. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG ‘Christ be our Light’

Longing for light, we wait in
darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy
people.

Light for the world to see.

*Chorus: Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church
gathered today.*

Longing for peace our world is
troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to
save us.

Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are
homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are
cold.

Make us Your building, sheltering
others.

Walls made of living stone.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people.

Many the hearts that yearn to
belong.

Let us be servants to one another.

Making Your kingdom come.

Chorus

BLESSING

May the God you see in all the colours of creation

Arouse in you a sense of awe and wonder.

May the God who is a sacred presence be real to you.

May the God who is a source of inspiration

And courage keep calling you forward
May your God be with you and bless you.

Francis Macnab

SUNG BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

AMEN