



Opportunities

VIRTUE AND VIOLENCE

29 November 2022

Join this on-line [event](#) which will look at the subject with reference to the Sermon on the Mount.



PRAYER for PEACE

Use this [prayer](#), written for Iraq, to pray for other countries at war.



REMEMBRANCE HYMN

Sing these [words](#) of Dr Helen Paynter to the tune Jupiter ("I Vow to thee My Country") by Gustav Holst.



ADVENT DAILY RETREAT

The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow are offering this [retreat](#) which includes music, art, scripture and a reflection, starting 27 November.



ADVENT AUDIO RETREAT

Sign up for "Endings and Beginnings" [here](#).

War to Peace

November, for some, is a time when war and peace are remembered. Also, around the Katafiyio Retreat, it is the season for cutting olive branches, often used as a symbol of peace, and olives harvested.

We tend to think of war taking place between tribal groups and countries but our work places, homes, and even our churches, can sometimes feel like places of war where an olive branch could be offered to ease tension.

David Ausburger in his book "Caring Enough to Confront" talks about people in relationship either being Competitors, Avoiders, Compromisers, Yielders or Resolvers. Depending on whether there is a personal goal or ideal to work towards, or a concern for good relationships, this will drive a person in one of these five directions.

Augsburger challenges his readers to keep in mind that the important issue is not what the conflict is about, but instead how the conflict is handled.

Jesus could have been accused of causing war on many occasions; for example when he cured the crippled woman on the Sabbath day (Luke 13).



The incident made the synagogue ruler mad and Jesus told him and others present they were hypocrites! Ouch! Jesus then reasoned with his opponents which seemed to bring a sense of peace despite the consequent humiliation.

I wonder what the two poses of that woman said deep down to those who wanted to cause war that day? For the woman this war resulted in her peace.



Lead us
from death to life,
from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope,
from fear to trust,
from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our lives,
our world, our universe.
Peace, peace, peace.

(Morning Prayer
Iona Community)

An Exercise

ISAIAH 2:4

"They will beat their
swords into ploughshares
and their
spears into pruning hooks."

Take some fuse wire (pipe cleaners or modeling clay). **Firstly**, model a shape that represents an issue you feel at war about.

- Notice what is going on in you as you make your model - e.g. are you feeling angry, sad, questioning or ?
- What do you notice about your finished model - would you wish to keep this on show?
- Speak with God about what has come to mind.

Now take that model and remake it to reflect the peace you wish for.

- As you do this notice what needs to be changed - is it the whole model or just a part?
- Speak with God about what you are doing, what you are thinking and feeling.
- Would you be happy to keep this changed model on show?



WAR & PEACE 1914

Watch this short [video](#).
What situation in your life might it remind you of?
What olive branch could you offer to the other side?