

PILGRIMS OF PEACE, PILGRIMS OF TRUTH

We gather here today in solidarity with the meeting in Assisi to which religious leaders from the world faiths and cultures are gathering to pray for peace in our world. Recognising differences of faith and worship this is not an interfaith service. We do not gather to pray together but we come together to pray for peace according to our own traditions. We listen respectfully to these prayers and readings with the intention of working together in peaceful and harmonious co-existence.

Procession

Religious leaders accompanied by a young person carrying a flower process into the hall preceded by someone playing a bodhran. Young people place flowers in a vase at the centre of the stage.

Religious leaders sit in semi-circle at front of stage and young people behind them.

Introduction

Jim welcome people to Lauriston, tells what is to happen during the event and introduces the Cardinal.

Cardinal

All gathered here are welcome.

From ancient times the people of Scotland have been blessed by diverse cultures and religions. Through the work of the Scottish Inter Faith Council and local inter faith groups people of faith have come together in friendship and commitment to our environment to each other in our diverse communities and shared places of belonging to the most vulnerable in our midst whoever they may be.

Tonight we unite our gathering with that of the one taking place in Assisi this week. In that place of peace and reconciliation leaders of the world's faiths and cultures will come together, each to pray, according to their own tradition, for peace in our world which is so often characterised by war and conflict.

Tonight we too pray, each in our own way, listening respectfully to the prayers and readings of others and showing solidarity in our desire for friendship among us and peace between us and all citizens of Scotland and the world.

All gathered here are welcome.

Jim introduces each religious leader after sound of gong has died away

1. Acharyaji Mishah from the Hindu Community

All say: Let us be channels of peace
where there is hatred let us bring love

2. Lama Yeshe from the Buddhist Community
Ven. Rewatha from the Buddhist community

All say: Let us be channels of peace
where there is resentment let us bring forgiveness

3. Rabbi Ruben and from the Jewish Community
Rabbi Nancy Morris from the Jewish Community

All say: Let us be channels of peace
let us meet despair with hope

4. Moderator of the Church of Scotland from Christian community
Primus from Christian community

All say: Let us be channels of peace
let us be light in darkness

5. Imam from Muslim community

All say: Let us be channels of peace
let us meet sadness with joy

6. Ravinder Kaur Nijjar from Sikh community

All say: Let us be channels of peace
let us be consolers and people of empathy

7. Alan Forsyth from Baha'i community

All say: Let us be channels of peace
let us be givers as well as receivers of love

Archbishop Conti

Each of our faiths has a commitment to peace and a vision of how we as human beings should respect and honour one another. But we fail in this and often our words and actions separate and divide. We have been prisoners of prejudice, bound by the chains of yesterday's wrongs and tomorrow's fears. Our young people have called us to be

PROMOTERS of what is good in our world,
CHALLENGERS of what is destructive and
CREATORS of a new type of world where

human beings are treated with respect whatever their religious background,
the positive values of the world's religions are promoted
we can live together in peace and friendship

Tonight we commit ourselves to that vision, to stretch out the hand of friendship to one another and to stand together even when difficulties and tensions arise in our relationship. Let us now express that commitment to peace as we say together

All say: Let us be channels of peace

where there is hatred, let us bring love
where there is resentment let us bring forgiveness
let us meet despair with hope
let us be light in darkness

let us meet sadness with joy
let us be consolers and people of empathy
let us be givers as well as receivers of love
let us see the best in one another

Let us live this aspiration together

Alternative commitment

We commit ourselves as people of many faiths
to work together for the common good,
uniting to build a better society, grounded in the values and ideals we share

community
integrity
wisdom
justice
compassion
respect for one another, for the earth and all its creatures

We commit ourselves in a spirit of friendship and co-operation
to work together alongside all who share our values and ideals,
to help bring about a better world
now and for generations to come.

Sign of Peace

Blessing said together by religious leaders

Recession – give out sapling or seed?