

**World Week for Peace Palestine Israel
Brunswick UC
Sunday 18th September 2016**

Beatitudes for Peace

During worship the congregation was invited to move to one or more of three different stations. One of these was in an invitation to write Beatitudes remembering that, in Matthew's gospel, Jesus said 'Blessed are the peace makers for they will be called the children of God'. A selection of these beatitudes was read out as our Prayers of the People with an introduction and conclusion offered by Helen Burnham. The full set of Beatitudes is included below.



Dear Lord, you are our Peace, our refuge and comfort. We thank you that we can come to worship you in safety when all over the world people suffer for their beliefs. We thank you for our family here at Brunswick Uniting and for the support and are we can call on in hard times. Loving Lord these are the prayers of our hearts.

Blessed are the writers of songs, for they shall give voice to the cries of our hearts.

Blessed are those who open their homes for their hearts will be open to love.

Blessed are the people who enter our doors for they shall show and teach us how to respond to our community.

Blessed are the compassionate and empathizers for they shall give love.

Blessed are the creatures of the seas including whales and dolphins for they shall bring joy to the earth.

Blessed are the ordinary Australians who work and live in harmony with neighbours from all cultures for they shall make peace in this world.

Blessed are the love makes a way for they shall see Nauru and Manus closed.

Blessed are the people who are depressed for they shall be healed.

Blessed are the refugees for they shall inherit peace and justice.

Blessed are the farmers of peace in our hearts for they shall know the harvest takes time but in the end lights the world.

Blessed are the givers, the carers, the kind and the compassionate for they shall be filled with hope, love and peace of the Lord that defies understanding.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall enable people to stay, farm, harvest and distribute food with a sense of certainty.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall enable people to prosper by holding onto their rich, diverse cultural and artistic heritage.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall encourage innovation in all aspects of life.

Blessed are the people who stand up for people in offshore detention for they shall show that love is more powerful than hate.

Blessed are the asylum seekers for they shall one day find hope and love and justice.

Blessed are those who commit to love beyond the walls of fear and despair for they shall sow peace.

Blessed are all the people I will pray for them every week for they shall have peace.

Blessed are those who resist the rhetoric for they shall know the gift of unity in diversity.

Blessed are the asylum seekers for they shall find refuge and welcome.

Blessed are the givers, who offer their time, energy and life experience to make life better for others for they shall be rewarded with love.

Blessed are the flowers and trees for they shall have new growth.

Blessed are those who live compassion for they shall reap peace.

Blessed are those who willingly face their fears for they shall also find the face of hope.

Blessed are those who are voices for peace for they shall speak for those unheard.

Blessed are the courageous, who display calm and even kindness in the face of provocation for they shall be unturned in a greater peace and greatness of heart.

Blessed are those who cry out against the evils of secularism for they shall know God.

Knowing that all over the world in many languages, in word and song, we speak to you and know that you are present with us and hear our prayers. Loving Lord, you came to preach Peace to us who were far away, and we are now God's people.

Help us to break down the barriers of hostility and create a new world of Peace and love, through Christ Jesus our cornerstone. Amen