

## O GOD OF PEACE

Bernadette Farrell

O God of peace, O God of tender mercy,  
We grieve our loss, this pain we must withstand.  
We pray to you for all within our city,  
we seek its peace, its well-being in our land.  
For in this peace we know that all can prosper,  
for in this peace our own peace is at hand.

O God of hope, be with us in the darkness.  
Your people fear the terror of the night.  
When love is lost and innocence is stolen,  
live in our hearts and hold us in your sight.  
Your word alone can heal abiding sorrow.  
Your word alone will lead us into light.

O God, your peace transcends all understanding.  
It guards our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.  
Peace is your gift, your pow'r to heal divisions,  
to reconcile, forgive within your grace.  
Help us to build a world of friend and neighbor,  
a peaceful land where all will find a place.

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Jeremiah 29:7 • Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

John 14:27 • My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.

Romans 12:17–18 • Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Philippians 4:7 • The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 91:5 • Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day.

Isaiah 32:16–18 • The Lord's justice will dwell in the desert, his righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

Violence and terrorism are, tragically, a growing part of our lived experience. Those who have nothing to live for, will sometimes find something to die for, even to kill for. In the shadow of such inhumanity, how do we pray? How do we bring before God our questions, shock, loss, tears, and despair? And how, step by patient step, do we once again begin to build the better world we believe in?

On November 29, 2019, a terror attack on London Bridge killed two outstanding students from the University of Cambridge, Jack Merritt and Saskia Jones. They were coordinating an event to promote the education and rehabilitation of prisoners. A former prisoner, attending the event, attacked and killed them. Another former prisoner, at his own risk, heroically tackled the terrorist and, with other members of the public, prevented further loss of life. Neither Jack nor Saskia would want their deaths to result in any further hatred or division.

*Use:* Gathering, Jesus Christ, Peace, Sending Forth, Social Concern, Unity



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FINLANDIA

1. O God of peace, O God of ten - der mer - cy,  
2. O God of hope, be with us in the dark-ness.  
3. O God, your peace tran - scends all un - der-stand-ing.

1. we grieve our loss, this pain we must with-stand.  
2. Your peo - ple fear the ter - ror of the night.  
3. It guards our hearts and minds in Je - sus Christ.

1. We pray to you for all with - in our cit - y,  
2. When love is lost and in - no - cence is sto - len,  
3. Peace is your gift, your pow'r to heal di - vi - sions,



O GOD OF PEACE, cont. (2)



1. we seek its peace, its well-being in our land.  
2. live in our hearts and hold us in your sight.  
3. to rec - on - cile, for - give with - in your grace.



1. For in this peace we know that all can pros - per, —  
2. Your word a - lone can heal a - bid - ing sor - row. —  
3. Help us to build a world of friend and neigh - bor, —



1. — for in this peace our own peace is at hand.  
2. — Your word a - lone will lead us in - to light.  
3. — A peace - ful land where all will find a place.

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Music: FINLANDIA; Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957; arr. fr. *The Hymnal*, 1933.

