

Worship Material
Come, Jesus, and put the world to rights
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 30th November

Begin with an opening prayer

As we gather today as your holy people,
help us do right by one another and love one another.
May we push away from our hearts and minds
all that is unpeaceful, unfair and unloving.
Amen.

Read Isaiah 2.1-5

Bible notes

The Book of Isaiah will be our companion through the Advent season, as we look for Jesus to come among us. Isaiah is so important in how Christians have come to understand Jesus that it has sometimes been called 'a fifth Gospel'. Scholars believe it is actually the writings of at least three Isaiahs that have been conflated. The first lived before the great disaster and warned people it was coming but they still could avoid it. The second was with the exiles living through the great disaster and he taught them how to hold on and hope in dark times. The third spoke to those returning about how they should learn from all they had endured and 'build back better' (see for an introduction to Isaiah).

In this passage, the first Isaiah describes what the people should have been building towards. He goes on to say how they have been distracted and fallen short of this vision. The Temple is meant to have earned high esteem, making Jerusalem seem the most important, most impressive, highest city. All nations are meant to be learning peace from it. God's Word will teach them a way of life that means they do not have to live in constant conflict with one another. They can recycle their weapons into farm implements and forget about training for war. The last sentence is a plea to his people to be like that, work for that vision, 'walk in the light of the Lord'. We have not arrived yet.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
let us not walk in darkness,
but in your light.
Let us not walk in danger,
but safely in your sight.
Teach us your ways of peace and justice,
teach us to love and not to fight.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

We see...
a world caught up in violence.
Come Jesus, and put the world to rights.
Communities that don't understand one another.
Come Jesus, and put the world to rights.
People who judge others.
Come Jesus, and put the world to rights.
And ourselves, arguing and fighting rather than bringing peace.
Come Jesus, and put the world to rights.
Amen.