

Prayers Of Peace - Poem by Raymond A Foss

Prayers for peace
rose up in many tongues
from the congregation
gathered round a new pole
hewn by parishioner hands
emblazoned with words
words of peace
written, spoken,
murmured aloud
Proclaimed,
in eight languages
Hopeful prayers, repeated
shared by the congregants
by the members and friends
rejoined after summer's allure
of the road, camps, the water
renewing friendship
in the community of faith
welcoming others, some for
the first time
with hopeful words of peace
on a day before
we memorialize
innocents lost
in mindless hate
'May PEACE prevail on Earth.'

Rev Gary D Millar

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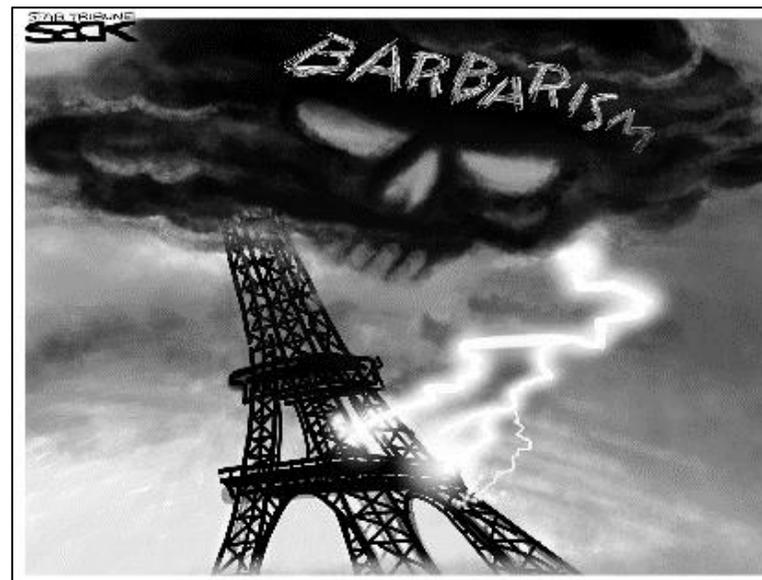
Society Stewards

Mr Ken Stewart (WMC) 93378812

Mr Brian Connor (IMC) 93353041

Whitehead & Islandmagee Methodist Churches
Announcements for Week Beginning

Home Mission Sunday
Sunday 15 November 2015



“I have told you these things, so that in me
you may have peace. In this world you will
have trouble. But take heart! I have
overcome the world.”

John 16:33

Sunday 15 November Home Missions

10:30am WMC Worship Rev Gary Millar
12:00pm IMC Worship Rev Gary Millar

Tuesday 17 November

8.00pm Dobson Room WMC Bible Study

Wednesday 18 October

7.30pm Dobson Room Craft Class
7.30pm IMC Bible Study 2nd Islandmagee PC Manse

Thursday 19 November

10:00am Dobson Room Craft Class
7.00pm Dobson Room WMC Choir Practice
7.30pm IMC Parlour Special IMC Church Council

Sunday 22 November

10:30am WMC Worship Congregational Meeting
12:00pm IMC Worship Mr Brian Connor

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

Gospel Concert in support of Leah Goss (Whitehead)

In Whitehead Community Centre

From 7.00pm - All Welcome

All proceeds to fund medical treatment for Leah

Rev Dr Barry Sloan and his wife Gillian will be home on deputation from Germany for a week in November. He will use this opportunity to officially launch his book about his own pilgrimage on the famous Columban Way - from Bangor to Bobbio in Italy. The book launch will be at 11.30am on Saturday 21st November in St. Columbanus' Parish Church in Ballyholme, Bangor. Barry will also be reading from his book and sharing about life and ministry in Germany on **Tuesday 24 November at 7.30pm in his home church - Greenisland Methodist.**

All are invited.

Church Mice



Tonight, as I write, Paris *the City of Lights* is reeling from the darkness of cowardly terror. French President Francois Hollande has closed his country's borders and declared a state of emergency after what he calls "an act of war." Six assaults have taken the lives of at least 127 victims, with 180 injured. The jihadist terrorist cult Islamic State has claimed responsibility.

Tonight, Christians around the world are praying for Paris. We are trusting the Holy Spirit to supply our words (*"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans"* Romans 8:26) as we pray for the victims (*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God"* 2 Corinthians 1:3-4), asking God for grace (*"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* 2 Cor. 9:8), peace (*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* Philippians 4:6-7), wisdom for leaders (*"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you"* James 1:5), and justice for all (*"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"* Amos 5:24).

Even if you don't know the words to pray, know that your grief and compassion for the Paris victims speaks to the Father on their behalf. John Bunyan noted *that in prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.* Tonight may be dark. However, the God of the Bible redeems darkness. He used the imprisonment of Joseph in a dark pit to raise him up to the right hand of Pharaoh. He used a vast sea and great fish with Jonah to show him the depths of his love and grace. He used the death of his Son to bring life to all who trust him for salvation. Darkness may rule the night, but the Morning Star still shines and the King still reigns. Terry Anderson, a Christian journalist held hostage in Lebanon for seven years, wrote of his experience: *"We come closest to God at our lowest moments. It's easiest to hear God when you are stripped of pride and arrogance, when you have nothing to rely on except God. It's pretty painful to get to that point, but when you do, God's there."* God is in Paris tonight. Let's join him, on our knees. (ref: denisonforum.org)

HAS GOD REVEALED HIMSELF IN OTHER RELIGIONS?

Karl Barth was lecturing to a group of students at Princeton. One student asked the German theologian *"Sir, don't you think that God has revealed himself in other religions and not only in Christianity?"* Barth's answer stunned the crowd. With a modest thunder he answered, *"No, God has not revealed himself in any religion, including Christianity. He has revealed himself in his Son."* SOURCE: Rev. John H. Pavelko, "Avoiding a Troubled Heart"

RE-INTRODUCING THE DEVIL

In a British radio broadcast circa 1943, reading one of his own essays, C. S. Lewis was discussing some of the basic Christian beliefs. In talking about the personal existence of the devil, Lewis anticipated the scoffing of the so-called enlightened modern thinkers who would relegate the idea of a devil to just a symbol of immorality, or a myth upon which to lay blame for one's wrong behaviour. He said, "I know someone will ask me, 'Do you really mean, at this time of day, to re-introduce our old friend the devil - hoofs and horns and all'? Well, what the time of day has to do with it I do not know. And I am not particular about the hoofs and horns. But in other respects my answer is 'Yes, I do'. I do not claim to know anything about his personal appearance. If anybody really wants to know him better I would say to that person, 'Don't worry. If you really want to, you will. Whether you'll like it when you do is another question'." SOURCE: C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*, "What Christians Believe."