

Worship resources

Poem for reflection

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
is it true
that states
that see National Security
as the supreme value
are like Nebuchadnezzar
with his golden statue
that the king commanded
to be adored?
Adoration today
consists in the idea that,
in defense of the supreme value,
everything is permissible:
kidnappings, tortures,
disappearances, murders.
Everything is permissible
to safeguard
National Security.
Is this
when one must be willing
to be cast
into the fiery furnace?
Clearly, the Spirit of God
inspires a new song
that will encourage
the victims
of the idolatries of every age.

—From *Hoping Against All Hope* by
Dom Helder Camara (Maryknoll, NY:
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Scripture readings

1 John 3:17, Matthew 5:38-42

Sermon ideas

Sermon on the Mount: Do not
retaliate against your neighbors
but seek reconciliation. Build peace
in the midst of conflict; do not cause
further harm. Reflect on how U.S.
sanctions have been used to harm
our neighbors.

Do not seek to act out of passion
(Matthew 5:21–26) but live a radical
mercy (38–42). We are called to live
without retribution in our relation-
ships. In foreign policy, this means
loving, merciful justice through
diplomacy.

Prayer: Open my eyes and ears

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see
the needs of others
Open my ears that I may hear their
cries;
Open my heart so that they need not
be without succor;
Let me not be afraid to defend the
weak because of the anger of the
strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor
because of the anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and
faith are needed,
And use me to bring them to those
places.
And so open my eyes and my ears
That I may this coming day be able
to do some work of peace for thee.
Amen.

—Alan Paton (1903–1988), from
franciscanaction.org/prayers

Prayer of confession

Lord, forgive us when we seek
easy answers to complex problems
and shy away from reconciliation.
Forgive us when we veil harm under
a pretense of nonviolence. In our
confession, give us hearts of mercy
and eyes of love that seek peace and
reconciliation first.

Songs

VT 36 *Let Us Build a House*
HWB 408 *O Day of Peace*
Justicia, The Porter's Gate,
Tina Colón Williams*
Instrument of Peace, The Porter's
Gate*

HWB = *Hymnal: A Worship Book*
VT = *Voices Together* hymnal
*Find on Spotify/YouTube

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