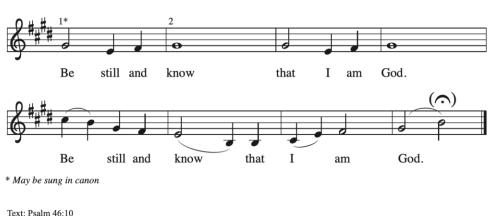


Be Still and Know Intercessory Prayer based on Psalm 46

GATHERING Following a time of silence, the hymn below is sung softly three times.



Be Still and Know

Text: Psalm 46:10 Music: BE STILL AND KNOW (BELL), John L. Bell, b. 1949 Music © 1989 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

We have gathered to pray. Our prayer is woven of silence, scripture, and song.

The lights are dimmed, Inviting us to be still in the presence of God as the Holy Spirit opens our hearts to receive the Word that is our refuge and strength.

The music is simple and easily learned. In our singing, and in our sighs too deep for words, We are breathing prayer to God.

In a while, you will be invited to kneel, sit, or stand by the cross to pray. Candles are placed there for you to light, a sign of your prayer before God.

Be still now. Rest in the darkness and silence of the evening. God is near.

Silence.

The hymn below is sung and will be used as a refrain during the reading of Psalm 46.



Though the Earth Shall Change

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46 Music: WE WILL NOT FEAR, Tom Witt Text and music @ 2009 Augsburg Fortress

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Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear,

though the earth be moved,

though the mountains shake

in the depths of the sea;

though its waters rage and foam,

and the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams

make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city;

it shall not be shaken;

God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations rage,

and the kingdoms shake.

God speaks,

and the earth melts away.

The Lord of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.



Come now, regard the works of the Lord,

what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

behold the one who makes wars to cease

in all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,

and burns the shield with fire.

"Be still, then,

and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Refrain

A time of silence is kept for reflection upon the word.

INVITATION TO THE CROSS

God never stands far off, but is close at hand. In Christ Jesus, God draws near to us, offering grace upon grace, mercy beyond measure, and life without end.

You who are troubled or in distress, you who feel separated from God's love, come to the cross where Christ receives your burdens and gives you rest. *(brief pause)* The God of hosts is with us.

Come, you who are filled with fear or anxiety, you who tremble when the earth is moved and your world begins to crumble. (brief pause) God is our help in trouble.

You who comfort those who weep and you who wait with those near death, come to the One who is our hope and final home. (brief pause) God is our solace and shelter.

Come, you who are burdened with pain or grief, you who are bound by guilt or shame. (brief pause) God is our river of mercy.

You who cry out for wars to cease and violence to end, come to the One who will crush our weapons of war and turn our hearts toward peace. (brief pause)

God alone is our defense.

Join in singing as the chant begins. When you are drawn, come to the cross. *(brief pause)* Be still and know that God is near.

Silence.

Hymns below are sung softly while people come forward to pray. Sing each hymns four times.

34

Peace, Be Still



what has not been done has not been done;

let it be.

The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness, of the world, and of our lives rest in you.

The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING Almighty God bless us, keep us, and grant us peace. Amen.

You may leave quietly or stay awhile to pray. When you go, go in peace. God is near.

The room stays quiet and dark until all have finished praying.

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