Peace Vigil 2021 – January 8th
17.00 to 17.30.

Micah 6 verse 8
Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God

We invite you to light a candle, or a torch, or other source of light, and to pray for Peace throughout our troubled world in silent vigil during this half hour. If it helps, the following words are offered for your use.

I/we light this candle for peace, Lord.
May its light scatter the darkness.
May its flame be a symbol of hope.
May its burning be a sign of faith,
joining with many other lights for peace.
I/we light this candle for peace.
May our lives be an expression of peace – making.
May we seek to be lights in a dark world,
pointing to you Jesus, the Prince of Peace,
and following you in the way of peace.
Let the candle burn, let the light shine, as a sign for peace,
offered to you.

John Johansen – Berg

Lord, you created all good things for us, and all we do is mess things up. We created havoc, spoiling our world, and causing suffering to ourselves and others.
Help us come to our senses and to use all our energy for the creation of peace, compassion, and justice for all people. Amen

Dave Tomlin for Harborough Action for Justice and Peace

"Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the result of violent oppression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is a right and a duty."

Archbishop Oscar Romero

When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flocks
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the hungry
To release the prisoners
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among the people
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

The following prayer is also offered for anyone who finds this pattern helpful.

<u>The Sisters of Providence: Litany of Nonviolence</u>

Provident God,
aware of our own brokenness,
we ask the gift of courage
to identify how and where we are in need of conversion
in order to live in solidarity with Earth and all creation.

Deliver us from the violence of superiority and disdain.
Grant us the desire, and the humility,
to listen with special care to those
whose experiences and attitudes are different from our own.

Deliver us from the violence of greed and privilege.
Grant us the desire, and the will, to live simply
so others may have their just share of Earth's resources.

Deliver us from the silence
that gives consent to abuse, war and evil.
Grant us the desire, and the courage,
to risk speaking and acting for the common good.

Deliver us from the violence
of irreverence, exploitation, and control.
Grant us the desire, and the strength,
to act responsibly within the cycle of creation.

God of love, mercy, and justice,
acknowledging our complicity
in those attitudes, action and words which perpetuate violence,
we beg the grace of a non-violent heart.
Amen.