



## **A Prayer on the Announcement that the Doomsday Clock has been set at 2 minutes to Midnight**

Yesterday the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' announced that they have set Nuclear Doomsday Clock for 2018 to 2 minutes to midnight. Only one other time in the last 70 years has this group set the clock this close to midnight.

Prayer

God of mercy, you hold the world and all people in your hands.

In our hands human beings hold the ability to destroy the earth with nuclear weapons. In the words of Living Faith "We fear nuclear war and the devastation it would bring." (8.5.3) In our fear give us the assurance that nothing not even the threat of nuclear war can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Give us words to speak that assurance to children and youth who may be fearful.

Give us the tenacity to pray for the end of the nuclear threat. We pray that the tensions provoked by the wars of words would be reduced. We pray that nuclear deterrence as a way to ensure safety would be rejected by the peoples of the earth. We pray that governments would be willing to reduce the number of nuclear weapons they possess. We pray that the nations of the world would promise to not use nuclear weapons.

By your Spirit call Christians around the world to advocate for a reduction in the nuclear threat, by asking their nations' government to eliminate nuclear weapons, by speaking for constructive conversations over threats of war, and by being voices of hope in a world where despair rules.

Bring about the transformation of the earth that we might be led to rejoice in the miraculous things you do in bringing your kingdom of peace and reconciliation into full bloom on the earth.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, moderator of the 2017 (143<sup>rd</sup>) General Assembly*