



A Prayer on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018

God of mercy, have mercy on our world.

You have said that you never tire of hearing our prayers.

We confess that we grow tired of praying
for peace in Afghanistan and
for an end to the violence in Syria.

Again today we find ourselves praying for those things.

Our hearts are broken, O God, the news of 100 dead and over 200 injured in the bombing that took place in Kabul yesterday. We grieve with those who grieve, we cry out in agony with a nation that has endured so much violence. We pray for the day when all the boots of the tramping warriors will be burned in the fire because they will be needed no more. (Isaiah 9:5) We pray for the day when everyone in Afghanistan will live in peace.

Our hopes for peace faded this week, O God, as we heard about the Turkish army's incursion into northern Syria, an area where the Kurds predominate. We confess that we lose track of the various groups and where they stand and so we throw up our hands and stop caring, stop praying. We pray for those who have lost loved ones in the fighting, we pray for healing for those who were injured including children and civilians. We pray for peace to come, a peace built on mutual trust and respect of the other.

O God of peace, bring peace we pray.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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