**A Prayer on Remembrance Day**

This is the prophet Micah’s vision of what God’s reign will look like when it comes in all its fullness:

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

*Father in Heaven.*

*Your word so vividly and so compellingly reminds us*

*that war is not your plan for things, and that one day—*

*when all the nations of the earth stream into your loving presence*

*to learn your way and to follow your plan for things—*

*one day we’ll stop training for war.*

*We’ll trade our guns in for gardening tools, and our bombs for bread baskets.*

*O God, as we long for that day with all that is in us,*

*we remember that it hasn’t come yet in all its fullness.*

*Brother still rises up against brother.*

*Nation still takes up sword against nation.*

*And training for war is still a reality in this hurting world.*

*So God in this time set aside for remembrance,*

*We pray for all those who have been touched by the trauma of war,*

*Those who have suffered in the past,*

*Those who suffer today,*

*And those who will suffer because of war in the days to come,*

*regardless what side of the battle-line they’re standing on,*

*we pray for them.*

*God, we pray for veterans of war,*

*bless them according to your wisdom*

*for the sacrifices they’ve made in the name of love, freedom, peace,*

*and human dignity.*

*We pray for soldiers who are involved in armed conflicts today;*

*protect those who are in danger,*

*give wisdom to those who lead,*

*heal those who are wounded body or spirit,*

*and bring them home safely.*

*We pray for the families of soldiers, too;*

*be with those who are lonely,*

*comfort those who are grieving,*

*and reassure those who are scared*

*for the safety of their loved ones.*

*We pray for all those who put themselves in harm’s way*

*for the safety and peace of others—*

*we pray for the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces,*

*for our police officers in the Durham Regional police,*

*we pray for emergency response workers, firefighters, EMTs—*

*protect them all in your wisdom as they give of themselves to protect us.*

*And God, like your son taught us to, we pray for our enemies near and far—*

*or for those we’ve been taught, maybe, to think of as our enemies—*

*O God who knows the hearts of all people,*

*be gracious towards them according to your wisdom,*

*let justice and mercy prevail in every conflict,*

*bring a swift and peaceful resolution to all enmity,*

*and let the Shalom of God reign.*

*We pray these things in the name of the Prince of Peace today;*

*Your all-wise, all-loving Son who taught us*

*that it’s the Peacemakers who are the blessed ones,*

*because they will be called sons God.*

*Let us be called sons of God like that we pray,*

*in his name and for his sake. Amen.*