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We find ourselves in a time when there is so much violence around us, in our homes, in our communities, in the world.

And sometimes the only words we have are those of lament.

And we cry, wars rage, destruction mounts.

Where are you, Lord?

The gap between rich and poor grows wider.

Where are you, Lord?

People suffer, struggle. There seems no end in sight.

Where are you, Lord?

Help us find you in the words and actions of those who proclaim peace.

Help us find you in the faces and lives of the poor.

Help us find you and be ready to welcome you, whatever your disguise.

As we are confronted in what seems almost hopeless, we look to the example of the Shepherd and the King of Peace, and may we be inspired in those that we remember.

**Let us pray.**

We remember those who served defending freedom,  
their bravery and dedication,  
their commitment and humour,  
their resourcefulness and hope.

We remember sailors, soldiers and aviators  
and their loved ones who suffered  
in times of quietness.

Some of us remember the sounds of battlefields,  
the hopelessness of defeat, and the poverty of captivity.

We remember those buried in foreign shores  
who paid the ultimate sacrifice for peace.

We remember Australians from Albany to Atherton,  
from Balmain to Burnie,  
from Geelong to Gawler.

We remember sons and daughters,  
husbands and wives,  
fathers and mothers who served in times of war.

Lord, we remember,  
we honour,  
and we are grateful to them.

May we strive for peace  
in your name, Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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