

Midday Prayers - 17  
1/1/68

Messiah: Glory to God  
(Handel) xvi  
START: And peace on earth.

"And on earth, peace to men of goodwill." That was part of the first Christmas message. It was the reason why the Son of God took flesh & lived among us - to bring mankind peace & reconciliation. "Peace be to you" "My peace I give to you" - Christ's own words to his apostles at the time of his death & resurrection which achieved that reconciliation of mankind with God. But the angel who gave that message of peace to the shepherds that first Christmas night, didn't wave any magic wand to force the peoples of the earth to love, respect, honour one another, to treat each other with justice and ~~the~~ sincerity, in freedom. We still have to work <sup>for</sup> and pray: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

We greet each other this first day of ~~1968~~ <sup>1968</sup> with "Happy New Year". I'd prefer, today, to say to you: "A peaceful New Year", a year filled, for you, with the peace of Christ, whatever else it may bring. Peace in your heart, in your love, in all your dealings with other people, that you may help in your small way to bring about that peace among people & nations which is so lacking today - ~~the~~ <sup>their</sup> absence

threatens not just your life & happiness or mine, but even the life and civilisation of our world. This is why the Pope has been so anxious about the establishment & maintenance of true peace in the world. Over Christmas, all Pope Paul's messages and efforts have been devoted towards peace. He has suggested, and his suggestion has been taken up by others, including the World Council of Churches, that this first day of a new year should be a day of peace, devoted to prayer & meditation for peace; a day when all men of goodwill should, in whatever way they can & whatever way most appeals to them, do something to bring about peace 'as a hope and promise, at the beginning of the calendar which renews & outlines the path of human life in time, that peace with its just & beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come'. Pope Paul hasn't called for peace at any price - for that wouldn't be true peace. He has recalled the necessity of defending peace in the face of dangers which always threaten it - selfishness, violence, armaments. Peace cannot be based on a false rhetoric of words which are welcome because they answer to the deep, genuine aspirations of humanity but which can also serve to hide the lack of true spirit and of real intentions for peace. Nor can one

rightly speak of peace where no recognition or respect is given to its solid foundations - sincerity, justice & love in the relations between states, and, within the limits of each nation, in the relations of citizens with each other & with their rulers: freedom of individuals and of peoples, in all its expressions, civic, cultural, moral & religious. Peace is not pacifism: it does not reach a base & stultified concept of life, but proclaims the highest & most universal values of life - truth, justice, freedom, love.

Let us, then, pray together today for peace as Pope Paul has asked us to do. Perhaps this music will help you to meditate quietly on peace, for a minute or two - it's a setting of some of Pope John XXIII's letter, 'Pax in Terris'

Pax in Terris  
(end) [Darius Milhaud]  
Vanguard Records

Prayer (various, for Peace)

Pax in Terris  
(opening)

Pope at UN - record  
"Peace in Tens" (Milkmaid) record

- 1 Peace
- 4 Holy Name - Jesse Tree
- 8 Holy Family - Epiphany - Egypt
- 11 Epiphany - Gaza - Jordan
- 15
- 18 Unity
- 22 "
- 25 "
- 29 Christmas New Year

Music

Deck Xmas : Jesus ...  
By the crib

Berking & Enforce - Hallel to Egypt

Hallel : Lored in Egypt

Jesus daleit ...

Arnold

Schütz

Organ

Corelli, Gabrieli, Torricelli