

Prayer for peace

*Inspired by the "Ploughman's Song" by Tonga Awhikau, child leader of Parihaka
Written by Rev. Dr. Jordan Redding for Parihaka Day 2022*

With hand to the plough,
sweeping across the land,
extended towards God,
the ploughmen of Parihaka laid claim to the land;
claiming it for justice and peace and for the flourishing of life.
claiming it as people of the land, tangata whenua,
stewards for its renewal and abundance provision – to the glory of God.

And so we pray, extending our hands in blessing
reaching out over land, toward each other, towards God.
May we take up the plough, cultivators of justice and peace,
spurred on by the words of te Whiti who *will* have the final word.

Wherever the land continues to depart from his vision;
wherever violence and war and greed ridicules his work –
we pray: peace, peace, and a third time, peace.
In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray. Amen.