

A Space for Peace

Surely any peace that lasts begins this way,
a slow coming together as music
gathers then moves where different people pray
the same, still prayer; and what in us is sick

is healed by merely asking it of 'Him'
to whom we've given many names. Song like water
flows through a temple where illusions are forgiven
everyone - father, mother, spouse, son, daughter.

Listen. Listen, watching the tongues of candles.
How easily peace again is with us,
restoring what its opposite defiled.

Let peace be brought to you now as a child
carries a candle towards you through the darkness.
As seventy children carrying candles.

James Manlow

Poet Laureate for Bournemouth

A poem written for 'Space for Peace' an interfaith musical event promoting the development of interfaith respect and trusting community relationships. This year's event, held at St Peter's Church, Bournemouth, was attended by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, and included some very special performances representing a variety of faiths all coming together in the name of peace.

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jamesmanlow.com