

## **Prayer for Peace on the Third Anniversary of the War in Iraq**

March 19, 2006

**By the Rev. William G. Sinkford**

I invite you to open your hearts and minds in the spirit of meditation and prayer.

Spirit of life and of love, God of many names:

We take time now to re-connect with the joy and the pain; the love and the hate; the hope and the despair that bind us together as one human family.

We grieve for those who have died -- and for their families, friends, and loved ones.

May those who live on find solace and support.

We grieve for those injured and their loved ones. May they find healing and strength.

We grieve also our own failure to prevent such suffering; to prevent this violence between nations. We grieve the continuing loss of precious life.

Therefore we pray for those who remain in harm's way: American and Iraqi, military and civilian, Sunni and Shia alike.

May they find safety and hope.

We pray for the leaders and people of Iraq.

May they find peaceful means to end this conflict, may they reach common ground.

And we pray for our nation's leaders and for ourselves.

May we have the courage and conviction to honestly engage the difficult questions; to speak hard truths,

to accept our responsibility to each other and the world.

May we find the strength and vision to end the cycles of violence.

May it be so. Amen.