



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## **When the Shooting Starts**

Lead me from Death to Life,  
from Falsehood to Truth.

Lead me from Despair to Hope,  
From Fear to Trust.

Lead me from Hate to Love,  
From War to Peace.

Let Peace fill our Heart, our World, Our Universe.

-- A Jain Prayer, by Satish Kumar

**Preliminaries** Candle lighter, reader.

**Opening/Candle Lighting** The shooting has started.  
*Leader reads* Whether you are a pacifist or believe that some wars are just.  
 Whether you are opposed to this war believe that it is necessary  
 Whatever your personal position on this war or any wars

When the shooting starts, all of us mourn.

We take this time to acknowledge our mutual grief.

But even in the midst of this grief, there is hope – there is always hope. We light this candle as a symbol of that hope. *(pause)*

All of us are touched by this, but some more directly than others. These may be people in the military, or traveling in the mid-east, or living abroad. The small rocks here symbolize those people. I invite each of you who has a loved one who is directly touched by this war to carefully place a rock in the water and say that person's name.

Even as we think of those whose lives may be touched directly by this war, we acknowledge that there is no one left untouched.

**Silence**

**Reading** The casualties are not only those who are dead;  
 They are well out of it.  
 The casualties are not only those who are wounded,  
 Though they await burial by installment.  
 The casualties are not only those who started  
 A fire and now cannot put it out. Thousands  
 Are burning that had no say in the matter.

The casualties are many and a good number well  
 Outside the scenes of ravage and wreck;  
 They are the emissaries of rift,  
 So smug in smoke-rooms they haunt abroad,  
 They do not see the funeral piles  
 At home eating up the forests.  
 We fall,  
 All casualties of the war,  
 Because whether we know or  
 Do not know the extent of wrong on all sides,  
 We are characters now other than before  
 The war began, the stay-at-home unsettled  
 By taxes and rumours, the looters for office  
 And wares, fearful every day the owners may  
 return.  
 We are all casualties,  
 The unforeseen camp-follower of not just our war.

**Singing** Dona nobis pacem pacem  
 -- Hymnal Dona nobis pacem  
 #388 Dona nobis pacem  
 Dona nobis pacem  
 Dona nobis pacem  
 Dona nobis pacem

**Closing/ Extinguishing the candle** Let us build an altar  
 -- from the From the fragments of these broken times;  
 Seekers Let us cry out for those who have no voice;  
 Church To help bring healing, justice and mercy  
 To those whose lives  
 Are filled with fear and suffering;  
 And know that God is with us,  
 Even in the dark of doubt.  
 Amen