

Peace be to your home and all who dwell in it

Thanks to Pam Eastham for supplying me with the inspiration for today's prayer/thought a few days ago she sent me a video of The four candles
I'm unable to attach it to this Prayer for the day but you can see it on our Facebook page.
For those of you who can't access Facebook these are the words from the slides as the three of the four candles burn and then are extinguished...

Four candles slowly burned
The ambience was so soft
One could almost hear them talking

The first Candle said"
"I am Peace!"
"the world is full of anger and fighting.
Nobody can keep me lit."
Then the flame of Peace went out completely

The second Candle said:
"I am Faith!"
"I am no longer indispensable.
It doesn't make sense that I stay lit
a moment longer."
Just then a breeze softly blew Faith's flame out.

Sadly, the third Candle began to speak:
"I am Love!"
"People don't understand my importance, so they simply put me aside.
They even forget to love those who are nearest to them."
And waiting no longer Love's flame went out.

Suddenly...a child entered the room and saw the three unlit candles.
"Why aren't you burning? You're supposed to stay lit till the end."
Saying this the child began to cry.

The fourth Candle answered:
"Don't be afraid,
I am Hope!
"While I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles."
With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.
The greatest of these is love...but the flame of hope should never go out of your life!
With hope each of us can live with Peace, Faith and Love.

Prayer

Dear God. You are my light and my salvation. You are my hope. Please come into my heart, forgive all my wrongs and give me your wonderful gift of eternal life. Help me be an instrument of your love and cause your light to shine on others through me. Amen

Gracious God,
we thank you that you are always with us,
in the bad times as well as the good,
the difficult as well as the easy,
the sad as well as the happy
Lord of all hopefulness hear our prayer

We thank you that, though we have sometimes
been unsure of the way ahead,
you have always been there to guide us,
though we have felt discouraged,
you have offered us fresh inspiration
though we have been in despair,
you have given us hope
Lord of all hopefulness hear our prayer

We thank you for the assurance this brings us,
that your steadfast love never ceases,
that your mercies are new every morning,
that great is your faithfulness.
Lord of all hopefulness hear our prayer

May that conviction give us confidence in the days ahead,
so whatever problems we face
whatever disappointments we experience
whatever sorrows may befall us,
we still find reason to look forward
reason to believe in the future,
and reason to hope
Lord of all hopefulness hear our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Stuart Townend Hymn – There is a hope

There is a hope that burns within my heart,
That gives me strength for every passing day;
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part,
Yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven;
And Christ in me, the hope of heaven!
My highest calling and my deepest joy,
To make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
A consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Saviour there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear,
He whispers 'courage' in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms,
And they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time,
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine
When I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,
And every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,
For I am truly home