

**America is at War with Iraq  
Prayers in Stauffer Chapel  
Pepperdine University  
March 20, 2003**

**Call to Prayer**

With the declaration of war last night, it is more important than ever for the Pepperdine community to come together and pray for the world, our nation, our troops, this campus and for all who are in harms way. To that end, special arrangements have been made through the Chaplain's Office to have Stauffer Chapel open from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. today to serve as a time of prayer and mediation for all who wish to do so.

At the beginning of each hour, there will be a reading of the Lord's Prayer. There will also be time set aside from noon to 1 p.m. for public prayer and scripture reading. In addition, there will be a prayer journal placed on the table located at the front of the chapel on the stage for those who wish to write prayers and the names of individuals for whom you are praying.

We hope you will join us throughout this day devoted to prayer, and find comfort in the chapel as a place of peace.

**Readings of the Lord's Prayer**

8:00 am	Larisa Hamada
9:00 am	D'Esta Love
10:00am	Stuart Love
11:00am	D'Esta Love
12:00noon	Carolyn Hunter
1:00pm	Paul Bost
2:00pm	D'Esta Love
3:00pm	Darryl Tippens

**Prayer**

Holy God, heavenly Father, hallowed be your name.  
May your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Today, I pray concerning the issue and prospect of war in Iraq

1. that Iraqi authorities will cooperate with the United Nations on the basis of international law;
2. that we as a powerful leading nation in the world will not act alone separate from the United Nations and possibly outside of international law
3. that war is always the last solution ... and the worst solution for resolving international conflicts.
4. that war even when just is still evil and, accordingly,
5. that our country will not act like a powerful empire.

Lord God, Suzerain over the nations, help us to identify more with the perspective of the Third World, the needs of the poor, the suffering of those in want of the necessities of life.

Help us realize that the terrorists in the world, led by Osama bin Ladin, want us to go to war against Iraq; that terrorists want social, religious, and political disruption to prevail,

that terrorists want anti-Americanism to flourish, that Osama bin Ladin through war in Iraq believes he can bring new recruits to his cause and that war, therefore, benefits his aims and purposes.

Help us, O God, not to be unrealistic about Saddam Hussein. Help us remember that he has gassed and bombed many, and that he has deprived the human rights of many. Help us to remember and not to forget the evil for which he is capable ... but help us to see that war solves little.

Help us, sovereign Lord, to appreciate the case made by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell at the United Nations, but may his case cause us more diligently to seek out diplomatic solutions,

Help us, Holy God, to weigh carefully what will happen to Iraq during a war and after a war—the death, suffering, and deprivation of innocent people.

Help us realize that the cost of war ultimately will be born by our children.

Help us to be committed to the task of peace, to allow you to judge between the nations, to arbitrate for the world's peoples, so that more and more we will be devoted to beating our swords into plowshares, our spears into pruning hooks, that nations will not lift up the sword against nations, that we will learn the futility of war.

I pray in the name of the Prince of Peace who taught us to love our enemies so that we may be children of you, our heavenly Father, the one who calls us to be perfect and merciful.

Amen.

**Stuart Love**  
**Professor, New Testament and Christian Ministry**

**Reflections on the Day:** D'Esta Love, University Chaplain

8:00 The Lord's prayer read aloud in the chapel

8:15--The first to come was a young man from facilities management as he began his morning shift at work. He slipped in quietly on the back row and sat silently with his head bowed.

8:30 Psalm 61 read aloud in the chapel

A young girl came all the way to the altar and knelt on the steps with her hands folded in prayer. It was precious to see her there kneeling before the cross.

Another young female student came to where I was sitting and sat beside me. She asked if I would hold her hand. She was weeping, so I held her in my arms as she wept on my shoulder. I prayed for her and she prayed a prayer of her own.

9:00 The Lord's prayer read aloud in the chapel

The sun is breaking through the morning fog and shining through the stained glass window. I feel its warmth. But the night falls in Iraq and soon the bombs will fall again.

Silently people slip in and out of the chapel. They write notes in the prayer journal, they sit in an attitude of prayer, they kneel beside the pew. The mood is reflective and prayerful.

9:30 Psalm 63 read aloud in the chapel

The recorded music is very quieting. The sound of the fountain outside adds to the sense of calm. This is a very peaceful place and today it is truly sacred space – a refuge in time of war.

Several are in the chapel now. As the day goes on more are finding their way here. For the most part they come alone. Some come with a friend or two. Always they come in silence.

10:00 The Lord's Prayer read aloud in the chapel.

10:30 Psalm 42 is read aloud in the chapel

A young Asian couple with a child came and sat on the front row for awhile. I assumed they were visitors to the campus. The man sat with his arm around his wife as she laid her head on his shoulder. The man picked up his child and stood with him before the cross. I was glad the chapel was devoted to prayer on the day they chose to visit our campus. It speaks to the nature of our community and the reality that this is a place of prayer and devotion to God.

11:00 The Lord's Prayer read aloud in the chapel.

There has been someone in the chapel at all times, but often there is a solitary person. It occurs to me that we do not seek out quiet places—even at times like these. I suspect there are more people sitting around the television sets than seeking places of solitude and peace and prayer. I also believe we are not accustomed to prayers in the chapel. This is an experience that needs to be cultivated.

For me it has been a blessing to be here all day. It has soothed my spirit and calmed my soul. I have not been conscious of time passing—other than when it is time for readings. It surprises me how quickly time passes in solitude. The sounds transport me, the words of the Psalms give me peace.

I also see this as my personal vigil—tending the flames, reading the words, maintaining the solitude, offering the prayers. It is a blessed and sacred task—to create sacred place and to be silent in the presence of the Lord.

11:30 Psalm 47 read aloud in the chapel.

I am surprised at the number of tourists that have come in. One group took pictures and asked me to take a picture of them at the altar. They seem not to be aware that people are praying. I quietly refused and asked them respect those who were at prayer on this day of terror.

12:00 The Lord's Prayer is read aloud in the chapel.

More have come at this hour and we enter a period of public prayers. I read aloud the prayers that had been written in the prayer journal. The prayers and the scriptures read have been very meaningful.

1:00 The Lord's prayer is read aloud in the chapel

I am coming to see the power of reading scripture aloud in the quietude of this place. We are tending to the reading of the word and prayer. This is sacred task.

1:30 Psalm 51 read aloud in the chapel.

2:00 The Lord's prayer is read aloud in the chapel.

2:30 Psalm 62 read aloud in the chapel.

3:00 Darryl Tippens did the final reading of the Lord's Prayer in the chapel.

People continue to come—one-by-one. Silently they slip in and sit with heads bowed, some kneel but all come in reverence.

Thank you, O Lord, for this blessed day. It has been a day of terror and suffering and death, but it has also been a day of prayer and contemplation as we have placed our trust and our faith in you. We declare that you are the Lord of our lives, that you alone can deliver, and that you have already achieved the victory over sin and death through the death of your son on the cross. We place our hope in you and we lift our eyes beyond the horizon of this world and its turmoil to the true reality of our life in you. Come Lord, Jesus, Come. In the name of Jesus, who is our peace, Amen.

D'Esta Love  
University Chaplain