

In the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Amos, this prophet had some harsh things to say to the people of his time. They didn't want to hear it. In fact, they said, 'Go away! Prophecy in some other country.'

Think for a moment. Are there ever times you do not want to hear what God has to say?  
(Pause)

Today's peace moment is a poem instead of a narrative. When I want to consider a concept in a new way, sometimes I arrange the words in a different form. The last stanza of the poem will be our prayer for peace.

The word of the Lord is easy to hear  
When it speaks of goodness and love,  
Blessings, beatitudes, joy, hope and peace,  
The promise of heaven above.

But what when God's word speaks rebuke or command?  
When it's clearly a call to repent?  
Do pride and self-centeredness stop up our ears?  
Do we boast, 'It's not me that God meant.'?

And what when to all of us – God's word is clear?  
Stand firm, proclaim, heed the call  
Strive to be faithful, challenge, explore,  
Pursue peace of Christ now for all.

How then to respond to ALL of God's word?  
With discernment, humility, awe,  
Generous giving from heart and from hands  
Til God's word is our life, not just law.

O God, hear our prayer; let us not be the ones  
Who hear only half of your Word.  
Let us respond – body, heart, mind and soul,  
To bring justice and peace for your world.

Amen

