

I said that whenever a Christian looks at Jesus dying on the cross she or he is looking at the world's evil and rejection of God. But that's not all, because a Christian cannot look at Jesus dying on the cross without also celebrating the resurrection and so when we look at an evil like the 7 July bombings we do so trusting that God is already working to bring about redemption and resurrection. Let's be clear about this. It's not always easy to see where that resurrection is to come. In the final analysis, we believe that the evil that is in the world will not be redeemed this side of heaven, but we are confident that God is at work in the depths of this evil and suffering; working to redeem it and our task is to co-operate with him in that process.

I hope that our service today can be a sign of God's work to us all. It's sad that it's taken such evil and such pain to get us to this point, but here we are together, from our different traditions; sharing in revulsion at the acts themselves; sharing in remembering those who died and above all sharing in our resolve to work for a community in which we all get to know each other and value each other; a community which welcomes rich diversity without feeling threatened by differences; a community in which the values of love and generosity towards each other define our civic life. Let us treasure the common ground which we share and reject attempts to demonise and scapegoat certain members of our community.

My prayer is that what we do here today may be a sign of hope. St. Paul spoke of peace and rejoicing, because he was hopeful. Let us be hopeful too.

Michael Camp

A joint statement

As people of faith in this place we stand together to express our shared commitment to resisting and overcoming the evil of terrorism. It is an evil that cannot be justified and that we utterly condemn and reject.

We remember those who died on 7 July; and our hearts go out to those who mourn, and to those for whom mental and physical injuries remain. We pray for them and with them and also for those still working to restore health.

We want to signal the common ground on which we stand and to reaffirm the values we uphold at this time of sorrow and pain. We are determined to strengthen those things we hold in common and to resist all that seeks to drive us apart. Central to what we share as people of faith is a belief in God's compassionate love for us. It is a love that compels us to cherish and not to disfigure our common humanity.

We commend and embrace all efforts to build a Britain in which different communities—including faith communities—can flourish side by side on the basis of mutual respect and understanding. We declare our desire to see the life of our Borough reflect the richness and diversity which our different faith traditions, as well as the wide range of cultures to be found here, represent and we shall work for the development of an affirming and generous community.

We pledge ourselves to continue to meet to develop our relationship and to foster these goals and, as we do so, we draw hope and comfort from the certainty that in seeking to overcome our own brokenness we will be working with the pattern of God's design for all his children and for the whole human family.