

Dalai Lama welcome

20th June 2012

Your Holiness, it is a pleasure to welcome you back to Westminster Abbey after almost thirty years.

My beloved brothers and sisters, we gather from many Christian and faith traditions in this holy place for a moment of reflection and prayer.

On behalf of the Dean and Chapter I warmly welcome you all.

The candle here sheds light in the darkness. May our moment together shed light in the dark places of this world and bring light to our own understanding.

May this candle warm our hearts and those of world leaders and melt resistance to peace and reconciliation.

Here for a thousand years almighty God has been worshipped. Here God's revelation of himself through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has been our inspiration and

touchstone. Our Lord himself teaches us not only to pray for peace but to behave as loving neighbours to the stranger.

I invite you if you will to join in the words of the prayer Jesus gave his disciples, a prayer for God's kingdom of justice and peace, a prayer in which we ask for forgiveness only so far as we can forgive our brothers and sisters who have offended us.

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall,
Dean of Westminster