



A Hymn for Peace

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4 ("The God of Abraham Praise")

A Hymn for Peace dedicated to the Memory of Shaul Lahav, Grandson of Helen and Paul Loeb, who was killed on November 18, 2003 on the road between Bethlehem and Jerusalem

Another son is killed,
Another daughter dies,
And loving, waiting homes are filled
With loved ones' cries.
As rivers never sleep,
So wars flow on and on.
Hang up your harps, sit down and weep
For those now gone!

We grieve for children lost,
For hearts too sad to pray;
We mourn, O Lord, the growing cost
Of hatred's way.
And sure as threats increase
And anger turns to war,
We pray that we may find a peace
Worth struggling for.

We know your way, O Lord,
For all your people here:
A plowshare from a fighting sword,
A transformed spear!
Now comfort those who grieve,
Be in each saddened home,
And by your grace may we believe--
And seek Shalom.

Psalm 137:1-2 and Isaiah 2:4

Tune: Hebrew melody adaptation by Thomas Olivers and Meyer Lyon, 1770.

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Carolyn Winfrey Gillette was serving as the co-pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ where Helen and Paul Loeb are long-time church members when their grandson was killed while serving in the Israeli Defense Forces.

Not from this world

By Bruce Gillette

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." From the Gospel John 18:33-37 (Gospel Text for Christ the King Sunday, November 23, 2003)

We got the news early Tuesday morning (two days before Thanksgiving) that a grandson of a Pitman, NJ church elder was killed in Israel. Shaul Lahav, the 20 year-old grandson of Paul and Helen Loeb, was killed while serving in the Israeli Defense Force. *The Jerusalem Post* has a front page article about this tragic death:

"The army has released the names of two soldiers killed Tuesday morning on the tunnel road which links the Bethlehem-area Gush Etzion communities to Jerusalem. The two were Sgt.-Maj. Shlomi Belski, 23, from Haifa and St.-Sgt. Shaul Lahav, 20, from Kibbutz Shomrat in the north. The shooting attack took place at 6am when a Palestinian gunman approached the roadblock with his rifle – an AK 47 – concealed in a prayer mat, then shot the soldiers from point-blank range. The gunman fled the scene on foot and was picked up by a waiting vehicle which sped him off in the direction of Bethlehem. IDF troops have begun operating in Bethlehem as a result of the attack.....

"Army post commander St.-Sgt. Shaul Lahav of Kibbutz Shomrat was the 2nd of 4 children born to David and Yehudit Lahav. The couple made aliya in the early 1970's as part of an American Nahal group. Shaul's mother Yehudit is a lecturer at Yad Nathan regional college, where their eldest daughter Ya'el studies. The father, David, works in high-tech. Lironne – Shaul's younger brother – is currently doing national service in Be'er Sheva, and sister Neta is in the ninth grade. Kibbutz secretary Dorit Becker described Shaul as a popular boy, a tall and enthusiastic volleyball player who was also an outstanding student. "He was so young – he didn't even manage to live his life, yet." Details of Shaul Lahav's funeral will be released pending the arrival of family relatives for the US; Sgt.- Maj. Shlomi Belski will be buried at the Haifa Military Cemetery." "[2 soldiers killed on Gush Etzion tunnel road](#)" by Margot Dudkevitch, *Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 18, 2003, page one.

A prayer mat used to conceal a gun to kill another human being; Jesus said, "My kingdom is not from this world."

One of the Loeb's sons (David Lahav) is a convert to Judaism and has lived in Israel for thirty years. Paul Loeb serves as an elder on the session of the First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ. He was at our church that Monday evening for the Property Commission meeting. Monday night he talked with me about going to Tuesday's West Jersey Presbytery meeting. Helen Loeb is a Professor of Education and Chairperson of the Education Department at American Baptist Churches-related Eastern University. They are a couple of deep faith who have given their lives to serving others and are rich blessings to the Pitman church. We all grieve with them. Tuesday night I drove Paul and Helen Loeb to Newark airport for them to catch a flight to Israel to attend the funeral of Shaul. Carolyn wrote a new hymn for peace that was sung that Sunday.

"In a world that assumes the status quo, that things have to be the way they are and that we must not assume too much about improving them, the doxologies of God's people are fundamental indicators that wonders have not ceased, that possibilities not yet dreamt of will happen, and that hope is an authentic stance." Patrick D. Miller, Jr. of Princeton Theological Seminary, "Theology Today," 1988, p. 186.

Bruce & Carolyn Winfrey Gillette were co-pastors of First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, New Jersey from 1994-2004 and now pastors of the Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware.