

# HOPELESS AS WE ARE, WE DARE TO TURN TO THEE

A WRITING BY  
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The following is a written prayer by Dr. Charles Malik published in *Presbyterian Life* on December 13, 1952.

O God, there is darkness in the world, and the blind are led by the blind.

Trusting in themselves, men do not turn to thee for succor and light;

They pin their faith on their own vain imaginings;

They worship things and creatures, instead of the Creator who is blessed forever;

They incline their hearts to rebellion and disobedience;

Lust and concupiscence overtake them, and the way of the greedy they prefer to follow;

This is our generation, O Lord our God, and we are ashamed of ourselves.

The nations are in confusion, not knowing whence they proceed nor whither they go;

Their word is not firm, it means many things, because they are sore afraid;

Afraid not of thee, but of one another, and of what science, man's science, may do to them;

They fumble in their counsels, and trust and honor seem to have gone;

The nations have substituted the law of man for the law of God, for man now is the measure, and the animals below man;

And there are wars and rumors of wars, and the angel of peace is driven out of the world;

This is our world, O God, and we are thoroughly ashamed of it.

Sinners and hopeless as we are, we dare to turn to thee in our extremity.

Lead us out of this valley of the shadow of death.

O Christ, have pity on us, miserable offenders;

Turn not thy face away from us:

The face of compassion and understanding,  
The face of triumph, and of love.

Grant us thy peace;  
The peace of thy Church, the peace of thy Saints who conquered death and the devil.

O Christ, we are part of a lost generation in a lost world;  
Therefore thou art our only hope;  
For surely we will not trust in ourselves,  
Nor in the ravings of men.

Put not to shame those who trust in thee;  
Grant them thy power, thy simplicity, thy joy.

Incline the nations to thy will, and let them seek thy law;  
Let thy judgment come upon the earth:  
The judgment of righteousness and of truth.  
Deepen, o Jesus, the love of those who love thee.  
Let nothing move them so long as they stay in thee.  
Stay thou in them, o Jesus, despite themselves.  
And from the broken and meek heart of thy saved let there arise prayers of forgiveness and love, prayers of peace encompassing the whole earth.

Hear us, O God, in this our humble prayer, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.