LEADER: Throughout the last century, wars alone took the lives of an estimated 110 million people. We lift these who have died to the Lord. And we listen for God’s response.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LEADER: A 1904 war between the Russians and the Japanese resulted in 100,000 deaths. One million Armenians were slaughtered by the Turks between 1906 and 1923. One hundred thousand people died in the Mexican Civil War.

PEOPLE: Hear this word of the Lord: “The earth was filled with violence.”

LEADER: During World War I, 9,442,000 were killed. Nazis murdered six million Jews and 13 million Poles, Slavs, homosexuals, Gypsies, disabled people and other “undesirables” in the Holocaust.

PEOPLE: Hear this word of the Lord: “The earth was filled with violence.”

LEADER: The number of deaths in World War II totaled 54,800,000 – civilians and soldiers.

PEOPLE: Hear this word of the Lord: “The earth was filled with violence.”

LEADER: In four years, one million died in China as a result of civil war between forces loyal to Mao Tse-Tung and to Chiang Kai-shek.

PEOPLE: Hear this word of the Lord: “Behold, the envoys of peace weep bitterly.”

LEADER: Three million were killed in the Korean War, half of them civilians. Half a million people died in the Sudan during 10 years of conflict. In Indonesia, another half-million were killed in civil strife. The Vietnam War took the lives of 2,058,000 people.

LEADER: The 20th century ended with war deaths of 37,000 in Turkey, 14,000 in Sierra Leone and between 9,000 and 30,000 in Argentina. In Serbia and Kosovo the casualties from 20,000 attacks by NATO planes and cruise missiles numbered in the thousands.

PEOPLE: Kum ba yah, my Lord. Come by here.

LEADER: The first years of the 21st century find over 30 wars raging around the world. On September 11, 2001, 2,752 lives were lost – this time on U.S. soil. And the U.S. launched a new war against terrorism.

PEOPLE: “And when Jesus drew near to Jerusalem he wept over it, saying, ‘Would that you knew the things that make for peace!’”

LEADER: Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Returning violence for violence multiples violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

PEOPLE: Teach us the ways of peace, O God..

ALL: Lord, we raise our eyes in hope, singing a song of love and peace.

AMEN.