

Hi all

Watching news on TV and picking up some of your messages and posts on facebook have written the attached prayer and hymn in response to the violence in Manchester and elsewhere. Please feel free to use if you want. Hymn fits to 'We lay our broken world' in Common Ground and several S.M. tunes - I had one in mind when I wrote it, but can't place it!

Hope you and your families/friends are all OK.

Love, Jan

A voice crying in the streets

A voice is crying in the streets,
'Go on, grab, loot, burn,
you can have whatever you want!'
The raw face of greed.

A voice is crying in the streets,
in sadness at what is lost,
home, business, maybe even faith?
the collapse of law and trust.

A voice is crying in the streets,
at mugging disguised as help,
children pushed into crime;
urban pride turned to shame.

A voice is crying in the streets,
struggling to protect and save,
clearing up the debris of violence;
God, restore hope and pride to our city.

A lament for the city

After violent disturbances in English towns and cities, August 2011

When law and trust break down,
God, give us strength to cope;
and in the heartache of our loss
show us a sign of hope.

When all around is hate,
and voices cry in fear
God of our streets and urban life
Come, dwell amongst us here.

When beauty is destroyed
and pride gives way to shame,
In our bewilderment and pain,
we call your holy name.

When empty streets are dead,
and smoke pervades the night,
God, reach into our troubled hearts
and bring us safe to light.

When morning brings new calm,
the debris washed with rain,
as people clear the scattered shards,
God, help us build again.

© Jan Berry 10.8.2011