

## **Litany of Peace for Parihaka**

*Written by Rev. Dr. Jordan Redding for Parihaka Day 2021*

We remember Parihaka, the safe haven for Māori  
fleeing violence, war and death.

We remember Parihaka, beating swords into ploughshares,  
tilling the soil as an act of resistance.

We remember Parihaka, removing surveying pegs,  
the encroaching sign of colonial greed.

We remember Parihaka,  
***and commit to the way of peace.***

We remember the Parihaka children,  
greeting the invading colonial troops.

We remember the Parihaka women,  
providing food in welcome.

We remember the Parihaka men,  
who did not take up arms.

We remember Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kākahi,  
calling the people to nonviolent action.

We remember Parihaka,  
***and commit to the way of peace.***

We remember those imprisoned,  
given mock trials, sent away far from home,  
We remember those forced to work hard labour,  
to endure cold nights without adequate warmth.  
We remember those who fell ill and those died,  
those forgotten and those buried far from home in unmarked graves.

We remember those they left behind to grieve,  
the women and children who were abused,  
the land that was ravaged, the homes that were plundered.

We remember Parihaka,  
***and commit to the way of peace.***

We remember the exile. And we remember the return.

We remember those who witness, and those who picked up the call.  
And we hear the same call today, joining with those who went before,

We remember Parihaka,  
***and commit to the way of peace.***