

Remember: Act Here Now

An Armistice Day Calling

By Ken Jones

Today I want to remember, and grieve
all who have suffered - and still suffer - from war:
the dead, so many dead, on all sides,
the living wounded, in body and mind and spirit
the hungry, the heartbroken
the survivors.

I find myself among them all,
witnessing in our own time and place
a world gone mad, addicted to war
over there, in the name of oil and gas
and conquest;
here, in the name of jobs
and righteousness.

And yet
I remember -
we are all one people
on only one earth,
one miracle among billions of miracles
spinning through infinite space,
gifted to be part of a divine creation.

We all see the same sun rising
the same moon eclipsing,
drink the same water,
breathe the same air
eat from the same garden
of Mother Earth.
We are within the same
Great Spirit.

We who yearn for peace
for justice
for freedom
for the very blessing of life to continue
for our children and grandchildren -

It is we who are called
not just to remember,
not just to see the truth,
not just to wish for the best
but to act
as though there is an emergency.
Because there is.

All we hold dear, all that we know
is under attack
by
endless war
climate catastrophe
racial hatred and fear
capitalism gone amok
fascism.

And so, on this day of remembering,
let us also look forward
and commit ourselves
here and now
to work for peace and justice,
to put an end to all forms of violence
here, there, and everywhere -
In our
hearts
homes
schools
streets
towns
workplaces
borders
world.

Let us be prophetic voices
in these troubled times -
for peace, not war,
for
Living in harmony with nature
Sharing the wealth

Understanding “the other”
Healing the injuries
Caring, not punishing
Freeing, not enslaving
Loving, not fearing.

Our time is fleeting.
How will we spend
our remaining days?

Armistice is good, but not enough;
remembering is good, but not enough.
Now, more than ever,
we must act,
with love,
to heal and protect all life
in this home we call Earth.