“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace,” runs the famous prayer attributed to St. Francis. But how can we bring our gifts, talents and passions into the peaceful service of Our Lord?

To help us gain inspiration for our own day, we will recall an extraordinary moment in English cultural life rising from the ashes of the Second World War; a moment in which the Christian call to reconciliation and peacemaking was proclaimed by the arts and practiced from newly fashioned sacred spaces.

Instruments of Peace, a symposium to be held at Erskine College April 3-4, 2014, undertakes an examination of Christian peacemaking and the arts focusing specifically on the war poetry and thought of W.H. Auden, his collaboration and friendship with composer Benjamin Britten, and the latter’s composition of the War Requiem for the newly rebuilt Cathedral at Coventry which has for more than 50 years served as a center for international reconciliation.

Instruments of Peace, co-hosted by Professors Kuykendall (Music) and Woodiwiss (Political Science) will include presentations from both on- and off- campus scholars as well as longtime members and activists from Coventry Cathedral, together with a symposium concert and poetry reading.

For more information, please visit news.erskine.edu/peace or call Communications at 864-379-8858