The time

There was a time our nation fought a battle to survive..
Our soldiers faced a foreign power and killed to stay alive.
The rights and wrongs are argued still, but surely now, at last,
the time for wars,
if ever there was time,
the time for wars is past.

The German bombs on Britain fell to kill and maim and burn,
then British bombs on Germany killed thousands in return,
and now we have a bomb to kill a million with one blast –
the time for bombs,
if ever there was time,
the time for bombs is past.

The nations round the table meet, “united” now in name,
but still the leaders vie for power, and argue over blame.
The crimes old hate can motivate are murderous and vast –
the time for hate,
if ever there was time,
the time for hate is past.

The earth itself is weary now, there must be no mistake.
Our children's children wait to live in this, the world we make.
So don’t ask “whether” peace will come: the question must be “how?”
The time for peace,
if ever there was time,
the time for peace is now.
The time

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