

Chaplain of the War-crd  
by Phil Ochs

E A F#m  
God bless the men who've learned to put their lives upon the line,  
D B7 G#m  
and God bless the men who've learned to sip the sacrificial wine,  
E A C#m A  
God bless the men who'll murder in th service of the Lord;  
E B7 C#m  
Blessings from the Chaplain of the War.

Give thanks to the parents who taught them as a boy they must obey  
Give thanks to the church who taught them how to pose and how to pray  
Give thanks to the schools who taught them well what they are fighting for  
Blessings from the Chaplain of the War.

I know it will be hard, your finger on the trigger might refrain  
But someone's dealt the cards and the Bible says you're clearly not to blame  
Just think about the past, all the Christian guns who've carried on before  
with the Blessings of the Chaplain of the War.

The enemy is godless, the holy way is one they never knew  
Forgive them as you kill them, believe me, they know not what they do  
And the prisoners you take, you can try to lead them to the Christian shore  
now Blessings from the Chaplain of the War.

Now you may find it strange that a man of peace is asking you to fight  
But the church is known to change, embracing half the wrongs it hopes to  
right  
I can't describe the times, I've wrestled with my conscience to the core  
now Blessings from the Chaplain of the War.

If the worst comes to be and you crumble in the misty cloud of pain  
I'll fall down to my knees and beg for every mercy on your name  
And your soul will be safe for heaven knows the burdens that you bore  
with the Blessings from the Chaplain of the War.

When you go for broke and the taking of a life may leave you lost  
Rising from the smoke is the all-inspiring vision of the cross  
Sending you the strength to show you that you can struggle more  
with the blessings from the Chaplain of the War.

The commandments are torn we'll teach them when the victory fire glows  
Now my collar is worn just above my military clothes  
The religion of the flag, the servant of the saviour and the sword  
Now Blessings from the Chaplain of the War.