

A Day of Lamentation for Gun Violence

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, Vermont



Welcome to St. Paul's Cathedral. At the beginning of each hour of this day of prayer and reflection, a bell will sound. All then stand for prayer, after which a spoken or musical reflection will be offered. A bell will then sound again and we will remain in silent meditation until the end of the hour.

☞ Please feel free to move about the church, respecting the silence others wish to keep. Rest rooms can be found off the entry lobby.

A Day of Lamentation for Gun Violence

8:30

Morning Prayer, led by Gabriel Dixon, member of St. Paul's Cathedral, employee at UVM Medical Center's Emergency Department

9:00

A bell is rung

Prayers The Very Rev. A. Jeanne Finan, Dean and Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral

Reflection The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

A bell is rung

Silence is kept

10:00

A bell is rung

Prayers Dr. Lee Williams, member of St. Paul's Cathedral

Reflection Dr. Mark Howe, Canon Precentor of St. Paul's Cathedral

10:17

The tower bells toll seventeen times, in memory of the seventeen people killed in Parkland, Florida on February 14

Silence is kept

11:00

A bell is rung

Prayers Sharon Panitch, member of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue

Reflection Dr. Jennifer Sisk, member of St. Paul's Cathedral and Professor of English, UVM

A bell is rung

Silence is kept

12:00

A bell is rung

Prayers Betsy Emerson, member of St. Paul's Cathedral

Reflection Jane Van Lanningham, member of Burlington Friends' Meeting

A bell is rung

Silence is kept

1:00

A bell is rung

Prayers Sue Brooks, member of Christ Church Presbyterian

Reflection The Rev. Mark Demers, Pastor of First United Methodist Church, Burlington

A bell is rung

Silence is kept

2:00

A bell is rung

Prayers The Rev. Dr. Fred Moser, Rector of Trinity Church, Shelburne

Reflection The Rev. Kim Hardy, Priest in Partnership with St. James' Church, Essex

Junction *A bell is rung*

Silence is kept

3:00

A bell is rung

Prayers Roy V. Hill II, member of College Street Congregational Church and charter/
founding member of New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church

Reflection Sister Pat McKittrick, Sisters of Providence

A bell is rung

Silence is kept

4:00

A bell is rung

Prayers Jud Lawrie, member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society

Reflection The Rev. David G. Hamilton, Rector of All Saints' Church, South Burlington

A bell is rung

Silence is kept

5:00

A bell is rung

Prayers The Rev. Sally May, Pastor of Malletts Bay Congregational Church

Reflection The Rev. Arnold I. Thomas, Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Jericho

5:15

Procession to Battery Park to stand in vigil

Prayer and charge Bishop Ely

Litany I *The congregation's responses are printed in boldface.*

Have mercy upon us, most holy God, Source of all being, all hope, and all life.

Silence is kept briefly.

We confess to you, O God, our worship of unholy things
fashioned not by you, but by our own hands.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fascination
with those guns and weapons that claim the lives of the undefended and the vulnerable,
especially of children wounded and killed in acts of random terror.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our attachment to the means of violence and bloodshed,
and our idolatry in claiming that they alone can save us.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you that our eyes have watched what is worthless,
and that we have allowed our hearts to be misshapen
by media that glorify violence and trivialize human life.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our lack of courage and clarity in public policy,
choosing individual rights over the common weal.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you that we have appealed to your holy Name
to justify our right to defend and protect, even when you gave up your defenses,
dying on the cross to rise again and to destroy the power of sin and death.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our willingness to allow the false god of consumerism
to deafen us to the cries of the injured and the grieving.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you the poverty of our response to gun deaths among people of color
and our lack of the outrage that we reserve for the slaughter of white children.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our facile acceptance of the lie that
“the only thing that can stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.”

Lord, have mercy.

Hear us, good Lord and God of all creation, and grant us the grace
to build more loving households,
to be more caring neighbors,
to fund and equip our schools more generously,
and to hear in our hearts your message of love and forgiveness.

Hear us, good Lord.

Unfetter us, O God of deliverance,
from the grip of the unholy trinity of poverty, racism, and guns.

Hear us, good Lord.

Guide us, O God of the prophets,
in the difficult conversations about what truly drives our fears.

Hear us, good Lord.

Protect, O God our Sun and Shield,
those whom you have called to speak the truth to the powerful and the contented.

Hear us, good Lord.

Teach us, O God of Holy Community,
to desire only the sword of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the helmet of
salvation.

Hear us, good Lord.

Help us, O God of Shalom,
to dwell peacefully and boldly in your Holy Name,
that the militias of hatred and fear will step back and fall to the ground.

Hear us, good Lord.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Eternal God, in whose perfect reign no weapon is drawn but the sword of righteousness,
no strength known but the strength of love:

Guide us with your cloud by day and your fire by night,
and grant us wisdom and courage for the facing of this hour.

All this we ask for the sake of your love.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Litany II *The congregation's responses are printed in boldface.*

O God of Life and Love, you created all people as one family
and called us to live together in harmony and peace;
surround us with your love as we face the challenges and tragedies of gun violence.

Silence is kept briefly.

For those we love,
for our neighbors,
for strangers and aliens, and for those known to you alone:

Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

O God of Righteousness,
you have given our civic leaders power and responsibility to protect us
and to uphold our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Silence is kept briefly.

For all who bear such responsibility;
for all who struggle to discern what is right in the face of powerful political forces:

Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

O God of Compassion, we thank you
for first responders: for police officers, firefighters, and EMTs;
for all those whose duties bring them to the streets, the lobbies, the malls,
the homes, and all places suffering the daily ravages of gun violence;
give them courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment,
and grant them compassion for the victims.

Silence is kept briefly.

For our brothers and sisters who risk their lives and their serenity as they rush to our aid:

Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

O God of Mercy, bind the wounds of all who suffer from gun violence,
of those who are maimed and disfigured,
of those left alone and grieving,
and of those who struggle to get through one more day;
bless them with your presence and help them find hope.

Silence is kept briefly.

For all whose lives are forever marked by the scourge of gun violence:

Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

O God of Remembrance, may we not forget those who have died
in the gun violence that we have allowed to become routine;
receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care.

Silence is kept briefly.

For all who have died, for those who die today, and for those who will die tomorrow:

Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

O God of Justice, help us your people to find our voice;
empower us to change this broken world
and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence;
give us the power to rise above our fear of futility,
and grant us the conviction to serves as advocates for change.

Silence is kept briefly.

For your vision of love and harmony:

Loving God,

Make us instruments of your peace.

Eternal God, in whose perfect reign no weapon is drawn but the sword of righteousness,
no strength known but the strength of love:

Guide us with your cloud by day and your fire by night,
and grant us wisdom and courage for the facing of this hour.

All this we ask for the sake of your love.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

– *Freely adapted from a litany by Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Diocese of Maine (February, 2018)*