



**Prayer Service of Lament for Gun Violence
United Methodist Building Chapel, Washington, DC
Friday, March 1, 2019**

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

Collect

O God who Remembers, we hold before you all who have died from the plague of gun violence in our land. We remember those who have taken their lives with a gun, those who have died in school shootings and mass shootings, those who have died by a gun in the course of an argument or from abuse or by accident or during the commission of a crime. We lift our voices in sorrow and frustration knowing that every life is infinitely valuable to you. Receive all who have died into the arms of your mercy, bless those who mourn with the hope of eternal life, and strengthen our hearts and our arms to bring an end to this scourge. This we pray in the name of the one who overcame the power of death, your son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Community Prayer (said in unison)

Healing and Holy God: we gather today in common grief for the epidemic of gun violence. Be with all those who suffer from the lasting trauma incidents of gun violence leave in their wake. Grant us strength and courage to live in hope of a better day, our minds fixed on the doing of your will, so that we, having been delivered from fear, may live in peace. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (Taizé Community, J. Berthier)

(repeat 6 times)

O Lord, hear my prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer
When I call, answer me

O Lord, hear my prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer
Come and listen to me.

Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-4

²In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Sweet shepherd of mine¹

Sweet shepherd of mine, how could I long
for anything more than the sound of your voice?
The soft green of earth and bed of pine,
you lay me down in the arms of Creation.

You lead me by the rivers of Life—
you restore the soul of my being,
the center of all I truly am,
within the safe circle of Heaven's own

Even the dark of the blackest night
cannot hide the path you have given to me.
Death falls away at the sound of your voice,
evil cannot hold, nor injustice thrive.

For You are my Comforter, my Guard, my Guide.
In the presence of my enemies,
you cloak me in light,
you sing me into safety,
your heart will be my home
all the days of my life,
without end, amen, and amen.

Reflection: The Rt. Rev. James Curry, Bishop Suffragan (retired), The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

Litany in the Wake of a Mass Shooting

God of peace, we remember all those who have died in incidents of mass gun violence in this nation's public and private spaces.

Six dead at the Wisconsin Sikh Temple.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Twelve dead at an Aurora, Colorado movie theater.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

¹ (An anthem premiered at St. John's, West Hartford, CT during a service celebrating Swords to Plowshares, September 24, 2018) Words: Mary Davies Cole, 2018, from Psalm 23; Music by: Scott Lamlein, copyright 2018

Twenty-eight dead at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead at Santa Monica College, California.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seven dead at a Hialeah, Florida apartment complex.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Thirteen dead at the Washington Navy Yard.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at Fort Hood, Texas.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seven dead in Isla Vista, near UC Santa Barbara.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at Marysville Pilchuck High School in Washington.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Nine dead at Emanuel AME in Charleston, South Carolina.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Sixteen dead at a San Bernardino, California office.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ten dead at Umpqua Community College, Oregon.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead in Kalamazoo, Michigan.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a Hesston, Kansas office.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at a Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania backyard party.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Fifty dead at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at Cascade Mall in Burlington, Washington.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at Fort Lauderdale Airport.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead in Fresno, California.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Eight dead in Lincoln County, Mississippi.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at an Eaton Township, Pennsylvania supermarket.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Nine dead at a Plano, Texas football-watching party.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Fifty-nine dead at a Las Vegas, Nevada concert.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Twenty-seven dead at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seventeen dead at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at the Veterans Home in Yountville, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a Nashville, Tennessee Waffle House.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ten dead at Santa Fe High School, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at the Capital Gazette Newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at the Fifth Third Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a Rite Aid distribution center in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Eleven dead at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Thirteen dead at a bar in Thousand Oaks, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead -- Debra Cook, Marisol Lopez, Jessica Montague, Ana Piñon-Williams, Cynthia Watson -- at a bank in Sebring, Florida.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead -- Billy Ernest, Summer Ernest, Tanner Ernest, Keith Theriot, and Elizabeth Theriot -- at their homes in Ascension and Livingston parishes, Louisiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead -- Russell Beyer, Vicente Juarez, Clayton Parks, Josh Pinkard, Trevor Wehner and Gary Martin -- at an industrial park in Aurora, Illinois.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead -- Lan Thi My Van, Le Thi Van, Phun Minh Le, and Cho Thi Van -- in a home in Clinton, Mississippi.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead – Alaina Rau, Cassidy Rodery, Kyrie Rodery, and Aubrianne Moore – in Solon Township, Michigan.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

All those who have died in any incident of gun violence.
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

For survivors of gun violence.
Grant them comfort and healing.
Hear us, Lord.

For those who have lost loved ones to gun violence.
Grant them peace.
Hear us, Lord.

For those first responders who care for victims of gun violence.
Protect and strengthen them.
Hear us, Lord.

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

Collect

Oh Lord we remember before you all those whose lives have been ended or shattered by gun violence. We give you thanks for the witness here at this gathering today. We pray that this country may wake up to the horror of gun violence and work toward peace and freedom from fear. All this we ask in and through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Bless the Lord My Soul (Taizé Community)
(Repeat 6 times)

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life

Blessing and Dismissal