

Prayer Vigil in Response to Recent Acts of Violence

Thursday | May 26 | 2022



Prelude

Welcome & Statement of Purpose

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Romans 8:26

Silence for prayer and reflection.

Psalm 13

Silence for prayer and reflection.

Music

Prayer

Lord, we are so weary.

We are heartbroken over the innocent lives lost in Buffalo, New York; Laguna Woods, California; and now in Uvalde, Texas.

We grieve children dying before they have had a chance to live;

teachers dying while trying to lead and educate their students;

faithful church members dying in their houses of worship;

and parents, grandparents and ordinary citizens dying

while simply trying to buy their groceries at the local grocery store.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We are tired—tired of the way things are, tired of the excuses, tired of feeling powerless, stuck and afraid. So today, as we sift through the rubble of our own anger and fear— and as we sift through the shards of our broken certainties— we ask that you would use and transform the energy of our deep-seated emotions into passionate and productive caring: caring that grinds hatred to a halt with measured, thoughtful justice, and caring that disarms the arsenals of cruelty with forces of goodness and grace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We pray this morning for all whose lives have been forever changed by the unimaginable— the death of a loved one at the hands of gun violence. We pray for teachers who must prepare for the unthinkable; for parents having to have conversations they shouldn't have to have; for lawmakers and policy changers; for first responders and mental health experts; for police officers and guidance counselors; for funeral home directors; and for every community which is reeling in pain this morning and is asking the same question we are: **How long O Lord?**

May our tears pour forth into the waters of baptism, that they might be stirred alongside your splashes of grace— reminding us of our baptismal promises to love and protect every one of your beloved children. And may our action for a more peaceable world be a prayer of its own. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

So Lord, as we sort through our many losses this day—
the loss of innocence, the loss of security,
and most of all, the loss of life—
we humbly ask that we may find among these losses,
a gain that comes by restoring a simple trust in you.
Show us that when all is lost, you create anew.
Show us that when life is gone, your resurrection restores.
Show us that your love cannot, and will not,
at any time ever be overcome.
And remind us again and again, that when all else is gone, your love,
and care, and provision always remains.
Lord, heal our collective wounds.
Lord, heal our individual hearts.

Use us, work through us and, if necessary, work in spite of us,
to mend the brokenness and to bring peace on earth, as it is in heaven.
We lift up all families who are actively grieving this day—
The communities of Buffalo, Laguna Woods, Uvalde,
and especially Robb Elementary School,
and we place them into your loving arms.
These, and all of our prayers,
we pray in the name of Jesus who is our Rock
and our Redeemer and who taught us to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

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