

We Grieve...

Call To Worship

Leader: Come let us go to the mountain of the LORD,
that we may walk the path of the Most High.

**People: That we may beat our swords into ploughshares,
and our spears into pruning hooks.**

Leader: We gather today in remembrance of all those killed or harmed
by gun violence in *(insert place name(s) here)*.

**People: We mourn the loss of 30,000 of our brothers and sisters,
killed by guns in our country this year.**

Leader: We are a nation at war with ourselves,
a people who have forgotten who we are.

**People: We gather today to remember
that we are each a child of God.**

**We gather to claim our belonging to each other
and our commitment to living the way of God's peace.**

Leader: Come let us go to the mountain of the LORD,
that we may walk the path of the Most High.

**People: That we may beat our swords into ploughshares,
and our spears into pruning hooks.**

Leader: Neighbor shall not lift up gun against neighbor.
Neither shall they learn violence any more.

**All: And none shall be afraid,
for the mouth of the LORD of Hosts has spoken.**

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,

Inspire us with the gift of shalom,
the gift of wholeness and the promise of your presence.

Give us wisdom to seek nonviolence
as an answer to the violence of our lives and world.

Give us courage to seek wholeness in a fractured and divided world,
to find reconciliation rather than revenge,
to abandon the instruments of violence and death
and entrust our lives, our homes and our families to you.

May your presence fill us and others with the thirst for unity,
wholeness, and the desire to see all people valued
as created in your image.

May we and others receive your Shalom
that we might be faithful instruments of your love. Amen.

(Adapted from Episcopal Peace Fellowship, "Gift of Shalom")

Hymn: God of Mercy A Hymn Lamenting Gun Violence

Scripture Reading

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and our strength,
who from of old has helped us in our distress.
Therefore we fear nothing –
even if the earth should open up in front of us
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea,
even if the earth's waters rage and foam
and the mountains tumble with its heaving.

There's a river whose streams gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High.
God is in its midst, it will never fall –
God will help it at daybreak.
Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble,
God's voice resounds, and it melts the earth.

The God of Hosts is with us –
our stronghold is the God of Israel!

Come, see what Yahweh has done –
God makes the earth bounteous!
God has put an end to war,
from one end of the earth to the other,
breaking bows, splintering spears,
and setting chariots on fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted upon the earth."

The God of Hosts is with us –
our stronghold is the God of Israel!

Hymn: Amazing Grace

We Remember...

Time of Reflection and Remembrance

During this time, you may offer a brief reflection or remembrance.

Litany of Remembrance

Leader 1: Let us remember all who have been harmed by violence.

We acknowledge the strength of those who survived
and of those still struggling to heal.

For their sake and for ours, we commit ourselves
to building each other up and to healing – together.

*Leader 2: Let us remember the families and loved ones
of those who have died from gun violence.*

We acknowledge their pain and their deep grief.

*They too, are part of our community,
and need our love and help towards healing.*

Leader 3: Let us remember the perpetrators,
and the families of those who commit violence.

We acknowledge that their lives, too, are devastated
and their hopes dashed.

For their sake and for ours, we remember
that pain goes in many directions from each act of violence.

All: We will stand up to violence.

**We stand together expressing our unity,
our connection to each other and to the divine;
our hope for healing and for transformation.**

Let the Spirit of our Creator move through us.

Help us to transform and heal our communities.

And let us begin by transforming ourselves. Amen.

(Written for Vigils Against Violence by Pat Long and Vandy Bradow)

We Hope...

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside,
and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around,
Jesus began to teach them.

He said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

We Pray...

Closing Prayer

Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds.

Let us return to ourselves and become wholly ourselves.

Let us be aware of the source of being,
common to us all and to all living things.

Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion,
let us fill our hearts with our own compassion –
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be the cause of suffering
to each other. With humility, with awareness of the existence of life,
and of the sufferings that are going on around us,

let us practice the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.

Thich N'hat Hanh

Hymn: The Canticle of the Turning

We Act...

Join us as we mobilize in response to God's call.

*Include instructions here for any acts of witness or action you would
like people to participate in. For example, sign letters to legislators,
make prayer flags, T-shirts, or go to a demonstration.*

This Vigil was originally created by Reverend Margery Rossi

using resources from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship,
PC(USA) and the Brady Campaign.

A version of it can be found in the
***Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gun Violence
Prevention Congregational Toolkit:***

<http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence/resources#.WdKHAmWzIU>

Thank you to all who participated
in the preparation and presentation of the vigil.

Prayer Vigil

DATE ✠ **TIME**

Place/Sponsor of the Event

We grieve with you, **(insert place/event)**.

May God be with you in your grief,
that you may know consolation.

May God be with you in your anger,
that you may receive peace.

May God be with you in your confusion,
that you may be led to truth.

And may God be with you in your fear,
that you may be delivered into surpassing love.