



"IMAGINE ALL THE PEOPLE LIVING LIFE IN PEACE. YOU MAY SAY I'M A DREAMER, BUT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE. I HOPE SOMEDAY YOU'LL JOIN US, AND THE WORLD WILL BE AS ONE." John Lennon

Prayer Service for Gun Violence Prevention

Opening Song: Peace Prayer

Pause: As we begin, let us reflect upon those we remember who are/were victims of gun violence.

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 plowshares, and our spears into pruning hooks.

Leader: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war any more.

People: We mourn the loss of all of our brothers and sisters killed by guns in our own country and throughout the world.

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 plowshares, 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.

Leader: Grant us, O God, the will to turn all weapons of individual or mass destruction into tools of global sustainability and medical advancement. Inspire in us the courage to rid our streets of gang warfare and stray bullets; to rid our homes of domestic violence and accidental shootings; to rid our neighborhoods of police brutality and our highways of racial profiling; to rid our bodies and environment of toxic abuse and our world of international conflict. Grant every individual a faith in you that affirms your likeness in all humanity and creation, and that never again uses religion as a sword severing anyone from an ultimate sense of worth and dignity. Enable us again, O God, to worship you with an ever burning faith that melts the metal of all vengeance, weaponry and war. Make us instruments of your justice, compassion and peace that your real may come, and Your Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

All: Enable us to take delight in you, O Lord, for You are the desire of our hearts. Blessed are You who come in the name of the Lord.

Litany of Remembrance:

Leader: Let us remember all who have been harmed by violence. We acknowledge the strength to 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.

People: 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: 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.

Scripture Reading: Proclaimed by Reader

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Contemporary Reading: Proclaimed by Reader

Thich N'hat Hanh

Response: Quiet Reflection

Closing Prayer:

All: O Holy God, make us a receiving people. Let us walk with your feet. Let us touch with your hands. Let your voice speak in and through us. Let your wisdom be transformed into right action within us. Let us carry forth your Spirit into the world. Let us be at one with You, O God. And may each who feels as one with You know also that we are one with every other, until all creation is unified in the light of love. May we go in peace and in the light of God's love. **Amen.**

Reworking text by Sr. Karen Hartman, sfp