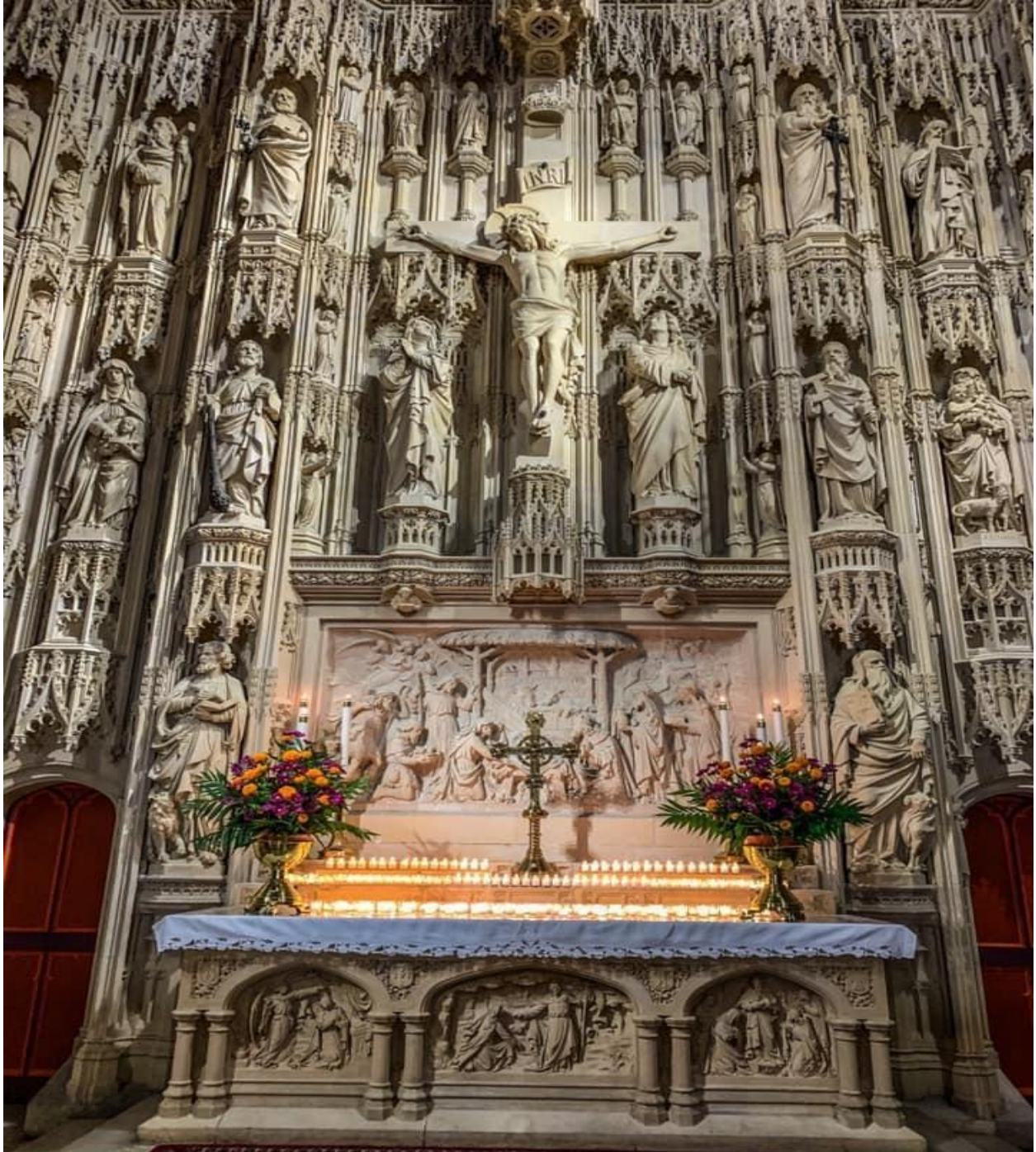


***Christ Church Cathedral
The Episcopal Cathedral in the Diocese of Missouri
Friday, 12 December 2025
12:10 PM***

***Prayer Service for the Victims of Gun Violence in St. Louis City in 2025
and the thirteenth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Tragedy***



The candles on the high altar today are lit in memory of those 131 persons whose lives were cut short by Gun Violence in St. Louis in 2025. The candles on the low altar are lit in memory of the 20 first graders and 6 educators killed at Sandy Hook School on December 14, 2012. Though these candles will only burn for a time, the light and love they bring into the world will remain strong forever. We light these candles today to represent our hope as we face the future. Although our lives have been marked by pain and loss, and although pain will remain, we act for a future that also brings healing care, understanding, love, and hope. We light these candles to represent each life, each grieving family, each tragic and unnecessary loss from gun violence that must end. May we find comfort and solace in the midst of our pain. May the light of these candles remind us of the perseverance of the human spirit that always seeks life and love even in life's most painful moments. May the light of each life compel us to end Gun Violence and end the stigma of brain health challenges, creating care that brings hope and healing.

Adapted from the Lighting Prayer offered at Washington National Cathedral National Vigil for Victims, families and survivors of gun violence, 3/23, 2018.

A Call to Prayer and Action

The Responses and participatory parts throughout are in bold print. Please join us.

A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. - Jeremiah 31:15

Dear ones, we gather in this sacred space and in homes across this city, around the state and country as communities have gathered for generations. We gather with heavy hearts to pray, to reflect, to mourn, to question, to seek hope, to lament, to remember, and to act for life-affirming change. Gun Violence has somehow been normalized in this state and country and takes the lives of over 32,000 loved ones including so many children and youth every year in the U.S. Gun Violence has taken the lives of 131 children of God in St. Louis since January 1, 2025. Gun violence continues to be the number one killer of children and youth in America. Gathering often offers us more questions than answers, yet we gather to be close to each other, to be in community, to move forward. We stand with each other and with the men, women, and children, our sisters, brothers, siblings, children and grandchildren who tragically lose their lives in our communities, our state, our nation every day. Together we stand against the tides. Because no matter what may come, no matter what the tide of Gun Violence may bring we are here, and we are far stronger united as one; caring for our neighbors- all our neighbors. Together you and I in all our diversity and difference, our understandings and professions, our faith or lack of faith, represent God's radical and audacious vision for our world, a world transformed by love. It is in that love that we gather to commend to Almighty God the souls of those who have died, to share in the grief of those who mourn, and to proclaim hope with those who persist. So together we lament, we remember, we hope, we vote, we act to end the scourge of gun violence.

GATHERING SONG If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers *Please stand as you are able.*

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH TUNE

If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers

O WALY WALY LM ("Though I May Speak")

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music, each with four lines of lyrics underneath. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font. The music is a traditional English tune, characterized by its simple, repetitive melody. The lyrics are as follows:

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
If we just dream of what could be
If we just sing of do - ing good
God, may our prayers and dreams and songs

— And don't live out a faith that dares,
— And do not build com - mun - i - ty,
— And don't walk through our neigh - bor - hood
— Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs -

— And don't take on the ways of death,
— And do not seek to change our ways,
— To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
— That works for peace and just - ice, too,

— Our thoughts and prayers are fleet - ing breath.
— Our dreams of change are false dis - plays.
— Our talk of good is simp - ly vain.
— Then will our prayers bring joy to you.

Biblical References: Isaiah 58; Matthew 7:21, 24-27; 1 Corinthians 13:1; James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:18-24

Tune: Traditional English melody

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A Prayer: Lament

Let us lament with all those who are touched by gun violence. Let us lament the shooter's choice for violence. Let us lament laws that allow the violent easy access to guns. Let us lament our politicians' unwillingness to work for change. Let us lament with the hearts broken by loss today. Let us lament all the lives cut short today. Let us lament, O God, and then let us rise from our knees to work for change. In the name of Christ, the prince of peace. **Amen.**

Lament by Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King

A brief silence is kept.

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept for a time.

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty, fear, violence and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, care for neighbors, bear good news, advocate for those oppressed, seek justice, act, vote, and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through the God of love. **Amen.**

God of mercy, you heal the broken in heart, and bind up the wounds of the hurting.

Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits and dispel our doubts and fears.

Renew our faith; restore our joy in this life, for it is you who promises life and gives us hope for the life to come. Amen.

Collect for the Oppressed (edited)

Look with healing love, O Holy One, upon the people in this land who live with Gun Violence, brain health challenges, injustice, fear, terror, and deadly loss as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to repair what is broken so that all may live in peace. Guide us to act to protect our dear children and youth allowing them to grow up with joy, surrounded by love. Help us act to protect our students, teachers, administrators, and first responders. Inspire us to end the stigma surrounding mental health challenges and create caring support for all who need it. Strengthen those who work tirelessly for the changes that must be made for all to live without fear and grant all our children and youth the environments needed to grow up in love, hope, safe learning and nurturing joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

You who turn the shadow of night into the bright promise of a new day, empower us to shape a world marked by ways of life that lead to justice and peace for all peoples. Fashion in us a people who are more ready to grow in understanding than eager to judge those who are different from us. Form us as a people determined to heal wounds rather than inflict them.

We pray, O Holy One, that you would cultivate such love in us that we may reach out in compassion to all those who grieve the deaths of those killed in acts of gun violence, all wounded, injured, traumatized and all taken by Gun Violence in our City; in seeking to help heal others, may we experience a love that makes us whole. Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH 31: 15-17, 23-24

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Once more they shall use these words in the land of Judah and in its towns when I restore their fortunes: "The Lord bless you, O abode of righteousness, O holy hill!" And Judah and all its towns shall live there together, and the farmers and those who wander with their flocks.

Hear ends the reading.

PSALM 121 prayed together

**I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "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 receive 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 for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Hear ends the reading.

THE SILENCE

Silence is a powerful reminder of God's presence and our need to "be still and know" God. I invite you into two minutes of silence as we draw near to God's call within to hold in our prayer and hearts those who have died at the hand of another or by their own hand and their grieving loved ones, those injured and traumatized.

God is our hope and strength, a very present help in time of trial. Therefore, in remembrance of those who lost their lives, those injured, those affected by gun violence, and those who continue in pain and grief, let us listen for God's voice of healing love in the silence.

The silence is begun and ended with the ringing of bells. Feel free to come forward and light a candle for a loved one. You are welcome to say their name if you would like to.

Merciful God, you seek us in the hidden places of our ignorance and in the forgotten corners of our despair. Gather us into your loving embrace, and pour upon us your wise and holy Spirit, so that we may become faithful servants of change, love and care ever building your Beloved Community on earth that you may rejoice with all the company of heaven. **Amen.**

Hymn 593 See page 23

Dickinson College

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, the world, lingers today in prayer for those lost to the scourge of Gun Violence; we pause to pray to you, our only defender and the author of peace.

O God, in a pillar of fire you visited the Israelites and you lit up the night; so empower your people to light up the darkness of our world, and drive fear, hate and violence from the earth.

God, in your mercy,

Speak to our hearts.

As Moses stretched out his hand to divide the waters, and brought the Israelites into a land of freedom; we pray for our nation, O God, that you might always bless us all with freedom from oppression and fear. God, in your mercy,

Speak to our hearts.

When you bring healing love, O God, the mountains skip like rams and the little hills like lambs; so spread your mercy over all the earth that all your children can dance together without fear.

God, in your mercy,

Speak to our hearts.

We pray for the injured, the suffering, the fearful, and all who live in the wake of trauma. God, in your mercy,

Speak to our hearts.

Gracious God, we pray for all those who grieve today, for those who witness and survive the trauma of violence, those who come to rescue, save, and protect, and for those beloved souls who are lost and their loved ones. We pray that your healing balm would run down like rain upon us all, and we pray that all who are lost are also found, by You.

God make us instruments of your peace: where there is hatred let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love: for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *The New Zealand Prayer Book*

Let us pray. **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

The liturgy continues with the lighting of the memorial candle.

THE LIGHTING OF MEMORIAL CANDLE

Light has played an important role in the life of Christianity from its very beginning. The Paschal candle stands as the Light of Christ's love in our midst. As an act of remembrance, a candle is set apart for the use as a memorial to those lost and is placed in a prominent place before the assembly.

A light is taken from the Paschal Candle and is used to light the Memorial Candle.

LITANY OF HEALING AND REMEMBRANCE

Holy God, whose will for all is health and salvation;
Have mercy on us.

Almighty One, who came that we might have life and have it more abundantly;
Have mercy on us.

God the Spirit, whose temple our bodies are;
Have mercy on us.

Loving One, you heal all who come to you in faith;
Have mercy on us.

God of love, you pardon our sins and heal our infirmities;
Heal your people.

Eternal One, your abiding Spirit renews our minds;
Heal your people.

Righteous One, your holy Name is a medicine of healing and a pledge of eternal life;
Heal your people.

We pray that you will hear us, O God; and that you will grant your grace to bring those who are struggling your peace;
Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will give patience, courage, and faith to all who face challenges by their pain and loss;
Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will grant your strengthening presence to all;
Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will sustain those who face long journeys ahead, bearing them up as on eagles' wings;
Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will comfort those who endure continual struggle, pouring upon them the sweet balm of your Spirit;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will grant to all sufferers the refreshment of quiet sleep;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will abide with all who are traumatized and despondent, that you will comfort them;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will restore all who are in mental darkness to soundness of mind and cheerfulness of heart;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will continue to give your wisdom in ample measure to first responders, administrators, teachers, doctors and nurses, therapists, and clergy that with knowledge, skill, care and patience they may continue to minister to all as needed;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will enfold and strengthen all those who mourn such great loss;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will uphold each of us in the long journey to healing;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will guide with your good Spirit all who search for the causes of evil and destruction, all those living in the shadow of evil; all working for common sense gun laws and brain health care and support;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will surround us in your great goodness with glimpses of hope along our way;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will bring your promise of eternal life to all who die and particularly those whose lives are taken in violence at the hand of another; today we remember those killed by gun violence in 2022 at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School: Jean Kirk Kuczka (61) and Alexandra Bell (15). We remember those children and youth killed by Gun Violence here in St. Louis City in 2025: Mattison “Matty” Johnson (16), Rashaud Boaze (15), Dae’wan Lindsay (14), Aubreyonna Muex (4), Dirico V. Washington (16), Parker Bujnak (17), Kho’ Mori (15), Charles Jones (15), Ophelia Lawery (9 mo), Jamad Edwards (16), Darius Bostic (16), Aeyion Barnett (16), Marshaun Futrell Jr. (11), Jordan Neal (9), unknown (17), Octavius “Tay” Harris (16), Shabrya Hudson (17), Anthony Page (15), Emma Schultheis (14), unknown (16), Damonte Hightower (17), Carter Bennett (16), Darrell Price (16), Duwan Morgan (14), Bre’yeon Wells (2), Richard Neal III (11), Orich McAllister (16), and the additional 103 lives taken in St. Louis City this year.

Per STLToday.com (Post Dispatch) the above names are listed in articles as juveniles who died of gun violence or gun accidents in 2025. Listed January 1- December 12, 2025=131 Lives taken and the gunviolencearchive.org.

On this thirteenth year since the massacre at Sandy Hook School, we remember the 20 first graders and six educators taken at the hand of another: Charlotte Bacon, Daniel Barden, Rachel Davino, Olivia Engel, Josephine Gay, Ana Marquez-Greene, Dylan Hockley, Dawn Hochsprung, Madeleine Hsu, Catherine Hubbard, Chase Kowalski, Jesse Lewis, James Mattioli, Grace McDonnell, Anne Marie Murphy, Emilie Parker, Jack Pinto, Noah Pozner, Caroline Previdi,

Jessica Rekos, Lauren Rousseau, Mary Sherlach, Victoria Soto, Avielle Richman, Benjamin Wheeler, Allison Wyatt.

We pray that one day Isaiah's prophesy of peace will live in each of us and so in our homes, cities, schools, communities, country and world. We will remember;

Hear us, and make us whole. *Individual prayers may be offered either silently or aloud.*

That we may reverently offer in service to the world the ministry of light which we hold in fragile human hands, thus sharing in the saving work of Christ the Light;

Hear us, and make us whole.

That you will guide with your good Spirit all who search for the causes of evil and destruction, all those living in the shadow of evil, all in harms' way and all who work to end Gun Violence and violence in all forms;

Hear us, and make us whole.

Creator God

Have mercy on us.

Sanctifying One;

Have mercy on us.

Redeeming One.

Give us your peace.

Adapted from The Wideness of God's Mercy; Litanies to Enlarge Our Prayer Rowthorn

Silence

HYMN 597 See page 24

JERUSALEM

Litany in the Wake of Mass Shootings

From Bishops United Against Gun Violence December 1, 2021. Following the murder of thirteen precious children of God in Thousand Oaks, California in November 2018, Bishops United Against Gun Violence offered a "Litany in the Wake of a Mass Shooting" to commemorate the dead, to comfort their loved ones, and to honor survivors and first responders.

We offer this litany, once again, with the reminder that one does not pray in lieu of summoning political courage, but in preparation for doing so. Bishops United Against Gun Violence invite you to join in this litany and our commitment to take action so that our country can be freed from the epidemic of gun violence.

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.

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 Church 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 Wilkinsburg, 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 at a bank in Sebring, Florida.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at their homes in Ascension and Livingston parishes, Louisiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead at an industrial park in Aurora, Illinois.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a home in Clinton, Mississippi.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead in Solon Township, Michigan.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Thirteen dead at a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Gilroy, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Twenty-two dead at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ten dead at the Oregon District of downtown Dayton, Ohio.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Eight dead on the road between the cities of Odessa and Midland, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead in their home in Elkmont, Alabama.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a bar in Kansas City, Kansas.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a backyard football watch party in Fresno, California

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead at a cemetery and kosher market in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead at the Molson Coors complex in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at a convenience store in Springfield, Missouri.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead in the northeast side of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Eight dead at three spas in Atlanta, Georgia.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ten dead at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at an office complex in Orange, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead at a home in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Nine dead at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seven dead at a birthday party in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ten dead at a rail yard in San Jose, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at Oxford High School in Oxford Township, Michigan.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead in Lakewood and Denver, Colorado.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at The Church in Sacramento, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead in downtown Sacramento, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Ten dead at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Twenty-two dead at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at a medical office building in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seven dead during a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at Greenwood Park Mall in Greenwood, Indiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead in a neighborhood in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead at Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seven dead at a Walmart in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Two dead at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School in South St. Louis, Missouri.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Twelve dead during Lunar New Year celebrations in Monterey Park and Torrance, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seven dead at two farms in Half Moon Bay, California.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead in Arkabutla, Mississippi.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seven dead at The Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Six dead at Old National Bank in Louisville, Kentucky

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a birthday party in Dadeville, Alabama

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead in a home in Cleveland, Texas

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Nine dead at Allen Premium Outlets in Allen, Texas

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead in a neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a home in Joppatowne, Maryland

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a Dollar General in Jacksonville, Florida

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at the University of Nevada, Los Vegas

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead while serving a warrant at a home in Charlotte, North Carolina

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at Apalachee High School in Barrow County, Georgia

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead near an empty lot; four more dead at a nightclub and four more dead outside a hookah bar in Birmingham, Alabama.

Give to the departed eternal rest

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a birthday party in San Joaquin, California including children.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three dead in the Weequahic neighborhood in Newark, New Jersey.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them

Four dead in a home in South Mabank in Henderson County, Texas.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead in a bar on St. Helena Island, in Beaufort County, South Carolina.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Seven killed at a homecoming party in Leland, Mississippi.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three killed in a Mormon Church in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three killed at an open-air bar on Cape Fear River in Southport, North Carolina.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four killed in North Codorus Township, Pennsylvania by enraged boyfriend.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three killed in worship at Annunciation Roman Catholic Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three killed at a bar in Crown Heights in Brooklyn, New York.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five killed when an angry father shot his wife and three children in Josephine County, Oregon.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four killed in a bar in Anaconda, Montana.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four killed in Lake County Tennessee, northeast of Tiptonville.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five killed in a midtown Manhattan lobby.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four killed in the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three dead in Lexington, Kentucky.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead in various places by one shooter in Rupert, Burley & Heyburn, Idaho.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three dead in the Gray's Ferry neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead in an apartment in Talladega County, Alabama.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three dead in a home in Gibson County, Indiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead inside an apartment building in Carondelet in St. Louis, Missouri.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three dead in a bar in Macon, Georgia.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three dead in a nightclub in Seattle, Washington.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead in the midtown Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Three dead in Sabattus, Maine.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead in an apartment complex in Pembroke Park, Florida.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead in a home in Lake Station, Indiana.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five dead, four children and their mother who killed them and herself, in Byron, Wyoming.
Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Five killed in the Puerto Nuevo neighborhood in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Four dead at a birthday party in San Joaquin, California including children.
Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

The lives taken in 340 mass shootings in the United States so far in 2025.
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.

Hymn 67 verse 1 See page 25

Comfort, comfort ye my people

A LITANY FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

God of Tender Mercy, be with those who are overwhelmed, enraged, frustrated and demoralized by the plague of gun violence. Give them a sense of your presence and plant in them the seed of hope. For those whose hope for life in this world is shattered and broken, Loving God Make us instruments of your peace.

Giver 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.

For our dear ones, for our neighbors, for strangers and those known to you alone, Loving God
Make us instruments of your peace.

God of Righteousness, you have given our leaders, especially Donald, our President, Mike, our Governor, Cara, our Mayor, the members of Congress, the judges of our courts and members of our legislatures, power and responsibility to protect us and to uphold our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

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.

God of Compassion, we give you thanks for first responders, mental health professionals, police officers, firefighters and EMTs, and all those whose duties bring them to the streets, the lobbies, the malls, the theatres, the concert venues, the schools, and the homes where the carnage of gun violence takes place day after day. Give them wisdom, care for every life, courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment and grant them compassion for all victims.

For our siblings whose call it is to rush to our aid with respect for all your people, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

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

For all whose lives are forever marked by the scourge of gun violence, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of Repentance and Forgiveness, we hold before you those who with access to a gun took their own lives and those who fired a weapon at another and seek your grace for transformation. We grieve for those who in despair or anger took their own lives and we ask your love to enfold and heal each one even as your love leads us forward. We pray for those who take the life of another whom we cannot forgive - not yet - but we trust in your power to make all things new. For those who from malice or illness are the instruments of violence and death, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

God who Remembers, 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.

Make us instruments of your peace.

For all who have died, those who die today, and those who will die tomorrow. We pray for those black, brown, Trans, Asian, LGBTQIA+, Jewish, Muslim, all beloved persons, and all persons targeted by white supremacy, antisemitism, hatred, fear, and ignorance, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of Tender Mercy, be with those who are overwhelmed, enraged, frustrated and demoralized by the plague of gun violence. Give them a sense of your presence and plant in them the seed of hope. For those whose hope for life in this world is shattered and broken, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of Justice, help us, your church, to find our voice. Empower us to change this broken world and to protest oppression and injustice in all forms and the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Give us power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change. For your dream of love and harmony, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

All this we pray in the name of the One who offered his life so that we might live, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

Adapted from A Litany for the Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Sunday, December 13, 2015 with Feb 2018 update written by the Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, former Episcopal Bishop of Maine

Prayer of the Children, by Kurt Bestor, arr. by Andrea S. Klouse

Sung by: Connor Scott, Daniel Pollien, Sarah Campbell, and AJ Murgio

*Can you hear the prayer of the children?
On bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room
Empty eyes with no more tears to cry
Turning heavenward toward the light*

Crying Jesus, help me
To see the morning light-of one more day
But if I should die before I wake,
I pray my soul to take*

*Can you feel the hearts of the children?
Aching for home, for something of their very own
Reaching hands, with nothing to hold on to,
But hope for a better day a better day*

Crying Jesus, help me
To feel the love again in my own land
But if unknown roads lead away from home,
Give me loving arms, away from harm*

*Can you hear the voice of the children?
Softly pleading for silence in a shattered world?
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,
Blood of the innocent on their hands*

Crying Jesus, help me
To feel the sun again upon my face,
For when darkness clears I know you're near,
Bringing peace again*

*Dali cujete sve dječje molitive?
(Croatian translation:
'Can you hear all the children's prayers?')
Can you hear the prayer of the children?*

COPYRIGHT: *Prayer of the Children*, by Kurt Bestor, arr. by Andrea S. Klouse, (1995) The Pinnacle Group, warner bros. publications.

Prayer for World Peace (together)

**Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle;
the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding to what we believe to be right.**

**May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.**

**We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe
in a world emancipated from violence,
a new world where fear shall no longer lead people to commit injustice,
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.**

**Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy
to the task of seeking justice and making peace,
praying always for the inspiration and the power
to fulfill the destiny for which we and all humanity were created. Amen.**

Closing prayers and Benediction

Gracious God, you alone are the source of all life. May your life-giving Spirit flow through us, so that we may be ministers of your compassion to one another; give us the calm of your peace, kindle our hope, and in your good time, let mourning give way to joy, through Jesus Christ our Deliverer. **Amen.**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Grace of Christ the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace, go in hope, go into the neighborhoods in love to end gun violence and violence in all forms.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 594 See page 22

Cwm Rhondda

PARTICIPANTS

The Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd, Cathedral Dean

The Rev. Deacon Barbi Click, Diocesan Jubilee Missioner

Dr. Connor Scott, Director of Music

Thom Gross, Lector

Quartet: Connor Scott, Sarah Campbell, and AJ Murgo

Rob Good, Cathedral Moderator (Livestream)\

Hymn 594

Cum Rhondda

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. Copyright © by permission of Harry Emerson Fosdick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Cum Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
 2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
 3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
 4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
 5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
 2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
 3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
 4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
 5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
 2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
 3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
 4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
 5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on prayer att. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) Copyright © James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman a division of Cassell, Ltd. Music: Dickinson College, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979) Copyright ©1962, Theodore Presser Co. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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Introduction



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the

hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
 fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly

love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
 graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -

hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -
 mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -

lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's
 cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the

1 *Interlude*



prom - ised reign of peace.
 earth shall know the (Lord.)

Final Ending



Lord.

Return to page 9.

Hymn 67 verse 1

Comfort, comfort ye my people

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet - er,
 and the all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. Hymnal 1982

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From an old Jewish folk tale...may we all be sent here to do good...and help repair a broken world. The Jewish Federation of Greater Danbury, CT and Putnam County, NY

There is a marvelous story of a man who once stood before God, his heart breaking from the pain of injustice in the world.

“Dear God,” he cried out, “look at all the suffering, the anguish, and distress in Your world. Why don’t you send help?”

God responded, "I did send help. I sent you."

SAD, TIRED AND ANGRY: A PRAYER IN THE FACE OF GUN VIOLENCE

Almighty God,
I come before you,
once again,
after another shooting.
I am sad, God.
So I ask you
to receive into your loving care the souls of those who were killed,
to care for those who were wounded or hurt in any way,
to console the family members and friends of those who died or were wounded,
to strengthen the hands of the rescue workers, medical professionals and caregivers
I pray too for the shooter, as I must as a Christian.
All this makes me inexpressibly sad, God.
But I know that the sadness I feel is your sadness.
It is the same sadness your son expressed
when he wept over the death of
his friend Lazarus.
I know that the sadness I feel is your sadness.
I am tired, God.
I'm tired of the unwillingness to see this as an important issue.
I'm tired of those in power who work to prevent any real change.
I'm tired of those who say that gun violence can't be reduced.
All this makes me tired.
But I know that the tiredness I feel is your tiredness.
It's the same tiredness that Jesus felt after his own struggles against injustice
that led him to fall asleep on the boat with his disciples.
I am angry, God.
I'm angry at the seeming powerlessness of our community to prevent this.
I'm angry at the selfish financial interests who block change.
I'm angry that these shootings happen at all.
But I know that this anger is your anger
It's the same anger Jesus felt when he overturned the tables in the Temple,
angry that anyone would be taken advantage of in any way.
Help me see in these feelings as the way that you move me to act.
Help me see in these emotions your own desire for change.
Help me see in these feelings your moving me to act.
Help me see in these reactions your pushing me to do something.
Because I know this is the way you move people to action.
And I know that you desire action.
For Jesus did not stand by while people were being hurt.
He plunged into their lives.
So help me to answer these questions:
How can I help?
How can I fight against gun violence?
How can I urge my political leaders to enact change?
How can I help people understand that this is
an issue about life?
I am sad over the loss of life,

tired of excuses for the loss of life,
and angry that we are paralyzed by the loss of life.
Turn my sadness into compassion. Turn my tiredness into advocacy.

So

Turn my sadness into compassion.

Turn my tiredness into advocacy.

Turn my paralysis into the freedom to act.

Help me

to be compassionate,

to advocate

and to act,

as your son did,

Almighty God.

~ James Martin S.J., is a Jesuit priest, author and editor at large at America Magazine [Found here:

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/gun-violence/>]

Advent / Christmas Services

December 14, Advent 3	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Traditional language	<i>In person</i>
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language, with Advent wreath lighting	<i>Hybrid</i>
Wednesday, Dec. 17	6:30 PM	Blue Christmas, for those feeling sad or hurt this Christmas with prayers, hymns and candle lighting	<i>Hybrid</i>
December 21, Advent 4	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Traditional language	<i>In person</i>
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language, with Advent wreath lighting	<i>Hybrid</i>
	11:45 AM	Greening of the cathedral (come and lend a hand!)	<i>In person</i>
	5:00 PM	Handel's <i>Messiah</i> , performed by the cathedral choir, soloists and orchestra, with Hallelujah Chorus ding-along.	<i>In person</i>
December 24, Christmas Eve	3:45 PM	Hymn sing, Christmas Eucharist, Contemporary language; Christmas hymns, with the placing of Baby Jesus in the crèche	<i>Hybrid</i>
	9:30 PM	Christmas Festival Music Prelude	<i>In person</i>
	10:00 PM	Festival Holy Eucharist including incense, Contemporary language, with the bishop and the dean	<i>Hybrid</i>
December 25, Christmas	11:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language, and Christmas hymns with the dean	<i>Hybrid</i>
December 28, First Sunday after Christmas	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Traditional language	<i>In person</i>
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language	<i>Hybrid</i>
December 31 New Year's Eve	5:00 PM	New Year's Eve Taizé Service; in-person. This service blends scripture, silence, prayer and contemplative chants. Music under the direction of David Sinden, director of music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ladue	<i>In person</i>

Hybrid = you may attend in person or on Zoom – see the website for service links –
www.christchurchcathedral.us