



Bringing what matters back to the gospel for justice, liberation, and delight.

A Prayer Vigil for Gun Violence

A call to worship adapted from Habakkuk 1

O God, how long shall we cry for help, and you will not answer? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save?

Why do you make us see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before us; strife and contention arise.

The law has become slack and justice never prevails. The wicked’s guns surround the innocent— there is no judgment before death.

Look at the nations, and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a terror is reigning on these days....

Song

Prayers of Intercession

God we are weary! It seems a week cannot pass without more violence. Safety is nowhere to be found. Hope seems distant. And so we turn to you, trusting in your promises that like a mother hen, you gather us under your wings. And so, in our all our mourning and our anger, hear our prayers!

For the families and loved ones of those whose lives were taken in Sutherland Springs and for those who were shot and remain in recovery.

Let your justice prevail.

In our temptation to get used to gun violence, to become numb towards loss of life, and to allow for the normalization of violence.

Let your justice prevail.

Wherever there is a refusal to acknowledge the patterns and powers of toxic masculinity, white supremacy, and Christian supremacy at play in shooting after shooting,

Let your justice prevail.

In response to the idols we have constructed - the gold we have shaped like guns - seeking security in violence, aggression, and retribution.

Let your justice prevail.

Fill our hearts with an insatiable hunger to hold our policy makers, corporations, and all who benefit from gun culture accountable.

Let your justice prevail.

You, O God, remember the names of everyone of your beloveds whose lives have been taken. We trust that all of our holy rage flows from you, and our sacred resistance will be sustained by your Spirit. Even when we struggle to see it, let your justice prevail. Amen.

Song

Consider holding a ritual space of remembrance - either for the 26 individuals killed in the most recent shooting or for all of the shootings this year. A candle may be lit or a bell may be rung for each. Alternatively, some time for an individual or collective art piece may be held depending on the location and size of gathering.

Song

Remembrance of what sustains us

Friends, as we gather in this space of mourning, of anger, of remembrance, we depend on God and one another for the strength to journey on. Our hope is our commitment to and mutual dependence on one another. Our collectivity is the source of our strength, our hope, our chances for making change.

As we go from this place, remember your neighbor. Look around. Hold with tenderness and hope the faces present here in the mind of your heart.

We have asked God - where are you to be found!?

Here - where people gather because we matter to one another. Here where we gather because we thirst for the same things - the Kingdom where all are free to flourish. Here, where we keep showing up to the pain, the struggle, and the beauty - all at once.

God is here.

And God goes with us.

And God will show up again and again, in every protest against powers and principalities that destroy and every act of care towards those whose lives are marred by violence. God will show up, until justice rolls down like water. Amen.