

# LITURGY OF LAMENT

*In Honor of the Buffalo & Irvine Shooting Victims*



**Ethnic Ministries Circles of Color**

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Diocese of Olympia

St. Matthew/San Mateo, Auburn, WA

LIVESTREAM

FRIDAY, MAY, 20, 2022

12:00PM

## Welcome

### Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget us forever?

How long will you hide your face from us?

How long must we wrestle with our thoughts and day after day have sorrow in our hearts?

How long will our enemy triumph over us?

Look on us and answer, O Lord our God.

Give light to our eyes, or we will sleep in death,

and our enemy will say, "I have overcome them," and our foes will rejoice when we fall.

But we trust in your unfailing love;

our hearts rejoice in your salvation.

Presider      The Lord be with you

**Assembly      And also with you**

Presider      Let us pray

### Collect

O Christ, enthroned on the seat of judgment, enraged by the abominations of racism and murder—we cry out with inflamed tongues and pierced hearts—save us! Is there no respite from the gaze which sees Black life as unworthy, from the hands that discard our lives, from the entrenched sin of a nation, from the evil built into our very psyche? Will they visit upon the thousandth generation? Maranatha, Lord! Let thine anger burn hot to bring a reckoning upon this anathema, and justice upon all who with contempt snuff out the lives of those who are unspeakably loved by our Father, who reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, to make all things rings. Amen.

*"For After A Lynching", Stokes, T., 2021. Prayers for the People : Things We Didn't Know We Could Say to God. Crown Publishing Group, The, p.83.*

### Song

*Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*

## Community Prayer

Healing and Holy God: we gather today in common grief for the epidemic of gun violence & racism. Be with all those who suffer from the lasting trauma incidents of gun violence leave in their wake. Be with those whose wounds from racism are re-opened this day. Grant us strength and courage to live in hope of a better day, our minds fixed on the doing of your will, so that we, having been delivered from fear, may live in peace. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from Bishops Against Gun Violence and the Episcopal Public Policy Network's Prayer Service for Lament for Gun Violence at the United Methodist Building Chapel, Washington, DC, March 1, 2019*

## Lesson: Jeremiah 22: 1-3

Thus says the Lord: Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word, 2 and say: Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah sitting on the throne of David—you, and your servants, and your people who enter these gates. 3 Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.

## Remembering All Who Have Been Affected By Gun Violence

(Adapted from Moral Call: a Vermont Interfaith Prayer and Remembrance Vigil)

Leader: We pray in remembrance of those impacted by gun violence, both those who have been injured and those who have been killed in cities and towns across our country, and especially in Buffalo and in Irvine. We hold their memories dear. We treasure those lives permanently altered through injury or those taken in senseless acts of violence, and we pray that they might find rest and peace. May their lives continue to make a difference in our world. Together we pray. **God of Mercy, heal our broken hearts.**

Leader: We raise our prayers in remembrance of the families and friends of the victims of gun violence in our nation and in Buffalo and in Irvine. Comfort those who mourn. Dry the tears of those who weep. Sustain those who feel diminished. Impart courage to the hearts of those who feel helpless. Together we pray. **God of Peace, sustain our broken hearts.**

Leader: We pray in remembrance of all communities torn apart by gun violence. We are too familiar with places like Parkland, Columbine, Aurora, Orlando, Newtown, Roseburg, Charleston and El Paso, but there are countless others. Each incident of violence affects all of us in our daily lives and work. Renew our resolve to pursue peace in our cities and towns and to respect the dignity of all human beings. Together we pray. **God of Comfort, encourage our broken hearts.**

Leader: We pray in remembrance of schoolteachers, retired officers, pastors, and doctors who put their communities' needs ahead of their own safety. We pray for first responders who witness the horror of gun violence while in service to our communities, and we pray for all those with responsibility for law enforcement. We give thanks for their call to protect and serve and to seek justice, which is inspirational to others, and we pray that their emotional wounds will be healed. Together we pray. **God of Courage, inspire our broken hearts.**

Leader: We pray for those lives taken by gun violence through suicide, and through accidental shootings, especially when those shootings involve children. We pray for those who are impacted by gun violence through domestic violence during this time of pandemic. Console and strengthen those whose despair is great. Together we pray. **God of Hope, comfort our broken hearts.**

Leader: We pray in remembrance of all people impacted by gun violence, as gun violence knows no boundaries but can affect all nationalities, races, cultures, faiths, genders, and socioeconomic classes; it can affect us where we live, where we worship, where we work, where we study, and where we play. Together we pray. **God of Love, transform our broken hearts.**

Leader: We pray for those who have committed acts of gun violence and for their families. We remember those suffering from mental illness who have gone untreated, and those suffering from loneliness and isolation. We pray for those who use guns, power and violence rather than respect and dignity to reconcile differences. Grant us the strength to pursue justice with a voice of love. Together we pray. **God of Forgiveness, enlighten our broken hearts.**

Leader: We pray for all community leaders and elected officials. We pray especially for the young adult leaders of the gun violence prevention movement. Give them insight, wisdom, and courage to address the epidemic of gun violence. Pour forth your Spirit on all our

neighborhoods and break the chains of violence that bind your people. Together we pray.  
**God of Power, strengthen our broken hearts.**

Leader: We pray today for ourselves and for others in our lives who have been touched by gun violence.

Leader: We will now honor and remember the victims of the weekend's shooting by saying their name followed by a ringing of the bell and silence.

### Naming the Deceased

Roberta A. Drury of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 32

Margus D. Morrison of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 52

Andre Mackneil of Auburn, N.Y. – age 53

Aaron Salter of Lockport, N.Y. – age 55

Geraldine Talley of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 62

Celestine Chaney of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 65

Heyward Patterson of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 67

Katherine Massey of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 72

Pearl Young of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 77

Ruth Whitfield of Buffalo, N.Y. – age 86

John Cheng of Orange County, CA - age 52

Leader: For whom else should we pray? (Offer names either silently or aloud)

Leader: Together we pray.

**God of Astonishing Mercy, Compassion and Immeasurable Love, restore our broken hearts and enliven our confidence to find new ways to revive our world to become one of peace. Amen.**

*Adapted from Bishops Against Gun Violence and the Episcopal Public Policy Network's Prayer Service for Lament for Gun Violence at the United Methodist Building Chapel, Washington, DC, March 1, 2019*

Reflection

*The Rev. Cn. Carla Robinson, Canon for Multicultural Ministries & Community Transformation*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Loving God in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the dominion, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Song

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

A Blessing for Those Who Mourn

May the One who makes all things new  
Hold you in loving arms.

May the One who overthrows religion  
Transform your anger into an energy of change.  
May the One in whom the dead find their [peace  
Wipe away every tear from your eyes.

And the blessing of Almighty God  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer  
Hold you  
And all whom you have loved and lost,  
Until the day comes when all shall be made new. Amen.