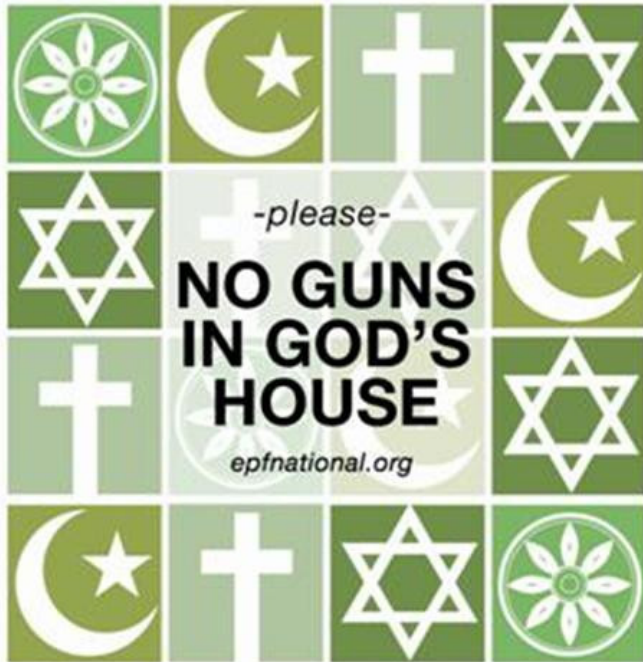


**Central Virginia Episcopal Peace
Fellowship Chapter
and
Charlottesville Center for Peace and
Justice**



**Service of Lament for Gun Violence
March 19, 2015
5:30pm**

St. Paul's Memorial Church
1700 University Avenue ~ Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
(434) 295-2156 www.stpaulsmemorialchurch.org

Opening Sentence

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalm 139:10, 11*

Chant

*Come, oh Lord, and set us free;
Give your people peace.
Come, oh Lord, and set us free;
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Old Testament Reading (Isaiah 11: 1-9)

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Chant

Come, oh Lord, and set us free;

Give your people peace.

Come, oh Lord, and set us free;

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

New Testament reading (2 Corinthians 5: 17-21)

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Chant

*Come, oh Lord, and set us free;
Give your people peace.
Come, oh Lord, and set us free;
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

The Prayers

Holy and life-giving God: send your reconciling Spirit to visit us. Live and move and have being in every human heart. Do your work among your people—crumbling the barriers that divide us, stemming the violence that pervades our country and our world, bringing an end to the hatreds and the hostilities that break your loving purpose. Heal our brokenness, O God, that we may live in harmony as one people.

In your holy name we pray.

Creating God: you made us in your own image; you made us for peace. And yet too often we choose to live in ways that destroy the very humanity you intend for us. Call forth in us that which is of you. Grant us the courage and perseverance to embody your peaceful ways in ourselves and in our relationships with one another. We pray in the name of your Son, who lived among us as the Prince of Peace.

In your holy name we pray.

Mothering God: you gather the suffering in your loving embrace. Come and dwell with those who have lost loved ones to the violence of our world. Comfort them in every affliction. With tenderness, console them in the hours of their need. In your compassion, and by your mercy, heal their torn hearts and lives—and restore them to fullness of life.

In your holy name we pray.

Discerning God: you know our hearts, and from you no secrets are hidden. You know the impulse to anger that lies within us and the urge to strike out. Call us to recognize all within us that would break your people. Lead us away from anger towards a deeper love. Strengthen our resolve to live as your compassion, your peace, and your reconciling love in all that we say and in all that we do.

In your holy name we pray.

God of our redemption: our cities and our streets have become places of war and violence. Our schools and our homes have moved from places of safety and sustenance to places of fear and anxiety. Let us not be silent. Create in us such a desire for civility, such a longing for peace, such a love for our neighbor that we will not be stopped in our efforts to restore our neighborhoods and our towns. Raise up among your faithful people a common desire to redeem all that you have entrusted to us. Make us bold for peace.

In your holy name we pray.

Loving God: you love every person that you have made and call us to do the same. Give us the wisdom and grace to be close to all who suffer: in body, mind, spirit or relationship. Give us the courage to be present to those who live in isolation; to comfort those whom no one comforts; to see those whose pain we would rather not see. Give us ministering hearts and healing hands. Turn our lives and the lives of our churches and communities to seek those who need to see your love in our eyes.

In your holy name we pray.

Prince of Peace: you challenge us when we seek a shallow justice—when we cry “Peace, peace”—when there is no peace. Give courage to those who seek your purposes; who challenge and address the truth of our violent ways. In the struggle to reduce gun violence, stand with those who keep covenant with you to protect the lives of every person. Uphold

them in their work by your grace, that we may be known as people of peace, as lovers of justice.

In your holy name we pray.

Chant:

Come, oh Lord, and set us free;

Give your people peace.

Come, oh Lord, and set us free;

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Benediction and dismissal

Go forth into the world in peace.

Be of good courage;

render to no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted;

support the weak;

help the afflicted;

honor *all* people;

love and serve the Lord

rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be upon you this night and evermore.

Acknowledgements:

Prayer litany adapted from The Washington National Cathedral's Gun Sabbath Prayers, March 15, 2013.

(<http://www.cathedral.org/learn/GunSabbath2013-prayers.shtml>)

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