

Prayer Vigil Against Gun Violence



Tuesday, June 21 • 6:30 p.m.

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Prayer Vigil Against Gun Violence

Our service begins with an organ voluntary. Please quiet body and spirit so all may enjoy the music.

Voluntary: Andante sostenuto, op. 70 no. 2

Charles-Marie Widor

Gathering Song: *Hymnal* 593 “Lord, make us servants of your peace”

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

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 a prayer att. to St. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226). Music: *Dickinson College*, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923–1979). Copyright: Words: Copyright ©, James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: Copyright © 1962, Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Welcome and Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse

Presider God be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Presider Let us pray.

O God who Remembers, we hold before you all who have died from the plague of gun violence in our land. We light this Paschal Candle in remembrance of those who have taken their lives with a gun, those who have died in school shootings and mass shootings, those who have died by a gun in the course of an argument or from abuse or by accident or during the commission of a crime. We lift our voices in sorrow and frustration knowing that every life is infinitely valuable to you. Receive all who have died into the arms of your mercy, bless those who mourn with the hope of eternal life, and strengthen our hearts and our arms to bring an end to this scourge. This we pray in the name of the one who overcame the power of death, your son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Litany of Remembrance

Remembering All Who Have Been Affected By Gun Violence

Total number of deaths by guns between 2013 and June 16, 2022 19,980 and rising on average 106 per day.

Lighting the First Candle

The Rev. Susan Candea
Bishop of the Central States Synod (Missouri and Kansas), ELCA

Reading: 1 Peter 3:9

Reader Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

We light this candle in remembrance of the victims of gun violence, both those who have been injured and those who have been killed, in our nation and especially here in West Missouri. 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.

All God of Light, heal our broken hearts.

Lighting the Second Candle

Mr. C.J. Duffie

Reading: Psalm 34:18

Reader The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

We light this candle in remembrance of the families and friends of the victims of gun violence in our nation and in Missouri. 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.

All God of Peace, sustain our broken hearts.

Lighting the Third Candle

The Rev. Carol Sanford

Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Reader Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

We light this candle in remembrance of all communities torn apart by gun violence. We are too familiar with places where people have been killed: Vestavia Hills, Birmingham Alabama; Uvalde, Texas; Buffalo, New York; Laguna Woods, California; Orlando and Parkland, Florida; Columbine and Aurora, Colorado; Newtown, Connecticut; Roseburg, Oregon; Las Vegas, Nevada; Charleston, South Carolina; Barre, Vermont, and many, many more. Each of these incidents of violence affects all of us in our daily lives and work. Grant us strength to pursue a voice of love. Renew our resolve to respect the dignity of every human being.

Together we pray.

All *God of Comfort, encourage our broken hearts.*

Lighting the Fourth Candle

Mr. Keith Johnson

Reading: Ephesians 2:10

Reader For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

We light this candle in remembrance of first responders, including police, fire and rescue personnel who witness the horror of gun violence while in service to our communities, and 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.

All *God of Courage, inspire our broken hearts.*

Lighting the Fifth Candle

The Rev. Chas Marks

Reading: Romans 8:38-39

Reader For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We light this candle for those lives taken by gun violence through suicide, and also for those lives taken through accidental shootings, especially when those shootings involve children. Console and strengthen those whose despair is great.

Together we pray.

All *God of Mercy, comfort our broken hearts.*

Lighting the Sixth Candle

The Rev. Sean Kim

Reading: Galatians 3:27-29

Reader As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

We light this candle in remembrance of all people impacted by gun violence, as gun violence knows no boundaries but can affect all nationalities, races, cultures, 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.

All God of Love, transform our broken hearts.

Lighting the Seventh Candle

Ms. Shirley Bolden

Reading: Sirach 18:11-13

Reader That is why the Lord is patient with them and pours out his mercy upon them. He sees and recognizes that their end is miserable; therefore he grants them forgiveness all the more. The compassion of human beings is for their neighbors, but the compassion of the Lord is for every living thing. He rebukes and trains and teaches them, and turns them back, as a shepherd his flock.

We light this candle for those who have committed acts of gun violence and for their families, in our nation and especially here in Missouri. We remember those suffering from mental illness who have gone untreated, and those suffering from loneliness and isolation. We pray for those who would use guns, power and violence rather than respect and dignity to reconcile differences. Grant us the strength to pursue a voice of love.

Together we pray.

All God of Forgiveness, enlighten our broken hearts.

Lighting the Eighth Candle

Ms. Brittany Sparrow Savage

Reading: Psalm 1:1-3

Reading Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

We light this candle to pray for ourselves and others in our lives who have been touched by gun violence.

During- the silent pause, we invite you to offer the names either silently or aloud of those for whom you pray.

Together we pray.

All ***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.***

Liturgical Dance: “Wade in the Water”

St. Augustine’s Liturgical Dancers

Dancers are Mrs. Sylvia Gaitan and Mrs. Taryn Todd. Song “Wade In The Water” as recorded by Ella Jenkins on African-American Folk Rhythms. Alvin Alley Dance adapted by Howard A. Roberts.

Prayer For Compassion and Action

The Rev. Susan McCann

Reader Gracious Holy One, we gather here because we are facing an unknown future with persistent and deep suffering from gun violence. It is hard to know where to turn so that voices of peace, understanding and compassion might be heard. We find it difficult to listen to each other. When gun shots ring out in our schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, churches, streets, and homes, hearts are broken. Lives are shattered. Souls that are taken from us cannot be returned, and we are left diminished as a human family. Violence done to one person is violence done to all.

But we know that your spirit of compassion, mercy and dignity travels through all of time. You watch over us even when we feel more than slightly lost. Within our reach is the goodness, promise and dreams that are your dreams. Remind us when we falter that love ultimately wins. Comfort us when we mourn with the assurance that life is bigger than that which we call death. Provoke in us the determination to keep trusting in the future so that together we find a way to listen, to address those things that need to be addressed and to respect the dignity of all human beings. This we hold up before you knowing the good you intend for us.

A Call to Commitment, Action and Sending Forth

The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce
Bishop Provisional, The Diocese of West Missouri

Reading: James 1:22-25

Reader But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.

To our elected officials, now is the time to be doers of the word. We strongly urge you to pass legislation to confront the scourge of gun violence in this country. In the wake of the senseless mass shootings it is long past time for the federal government to act. Congress must pass comprehensive legislation to restrict the ownership of firearms, require background checks for all gun purchases, eliminate background check loopholes, tighten laws against gun trafficking, require gun safety training, fund gun violence prevention programs, and address gun violence as a public health crisis.

Our faith teaches us to respect the dignity of every human being. Every day in this country, human beings die from preventable firearms deaths. Our minds rightly concentrate on this issue when mass shootings occur, and especially when the victims of a mass shooting are children, but the sad reality is that shooting injuries and deaths are far more common than all-too-frequent mass shootings. In addition to those terrorized by mass shootings, we cannot forget the countless communities with high rates of everyday gun violence and lament the reality that this type of violence disproportionately impacts communities of color. We acknowledge and bewail the harm caused by intimate partner and family violence, and the lives lost to suicide and firearm accidents.

It is in their honor and memory we respectfully call upon you to support commonsense bipartisan gun violence reform. The time for action is now.

(Adapted from the Episcopal Public Policy Network's Action Alert, "Urge Congress to Pass Bipartisan Gun Reform.")

Now send us forth, O Lord, direct us in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

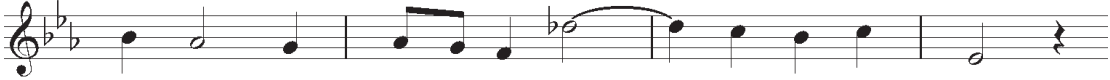
Concluding Song: *Hymnal 347* "Go forth for God"



1 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in peace;
 2 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in love;
 3 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in strength;
 4 Go forth for God; go _____ to the world in joy,



be of good cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace,
 strength - en the faint, give cour - age to the weak;
 hold fast the good, be ur - gent for the right;
 to serve God's peo - ple ev - ery day and hour,



in God's good Spi - rit dai - ly to in - crease,
 help the af - flict - ed; rich - ly from a - bove
 ren - der to no one e - vil; Christ at length
 and ser - ving Christ, our ev - ery gift em - ploy,



till in his king - dom we _____ be - hold his face.
 his love sup - plies the grace _____ and power we seek.
 shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his light.
 re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spi - rit's power.

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Final Blessing

All

Today we stand together to express our unity and our commitment. We stand as one people against the violence that has touched every corner of every part of our country. And we commit ourselves to journey on the path toward a more perfect peace — peace in our hearts, in all of our homes, our towns and our cities — to a place where the sound of gunfire is stilled and the laughter of children fills the air.

We leave in silence.



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH IN **WEST MISSOURI**



Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

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