

National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend

December 6 – 17, 2017

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

We gather today (this weekend) with others across the country in every state to call attention to the impact of gun violence upon all of our communities. We pledge ourselves to make a difference by remembering those who have been lost and committing ourselves to help our local community promote gun safety. We call upon our local, state, and national leaders to promote policies and legislation that will reduce the impact of gun violence. We remember that gun violence affects all of us - urban, suburban, rural, rich, poor, young, and old. We reflect on the fact that since the Newtown massacre, there have been more than 150,000 shooting deaths in this country.



Opening Prayer:

Eternal God, shepherd of every hope, refuge of every bewildered heart, and fountain of forgiveness for every contrite one, hear our prayer for peace in the world.

Save us from weak resignation to violence. Teach us that love is the highest expression of power, that thoughtfulness and tenderness are marks of the strong.

May we never for a moment forget that we are all fed by the same food, hurt by the same weapons, and have children for whom we have the same high hopes and dreams.

O God, as Muslims, Jews, and Christians, we acknowledge that You have made of one blood all the nations of the earth. You love all of us as if all were but one, and you care for each as if all were but one.

Remembering such love, may we not weary in our efforts to fashion out of our failures today some great good for all Your people tomorrow. Amen.

(Peace and Nonviolence Study Packets September, 2011)

Litany of Peace

(said side to side or leader and response)

Side 1: Let us remember all who have been harmed by violence.

Side 2: Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember all who have been killed by gun violence.

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember the families and loved ones of those who have died from gun violence.

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember the perpetrators and the families of those who commit violence.

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember the children who have died from guns.

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember those killed and victimized by an intimate partner.

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember victims of suicide.

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember those killed by the violence of war.

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember those harmed by violence in Colombia during this Dominican Month for Peace.

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Let us remember those killed in our city by violence this year (*insert names here*).

Lord send your spirit of peace.

Please observe a moment of silence for all who have been affected by gun violence in our communities, states, country, and world.

All: We will stand up to violence. We stand together expressing our unity, our connection to each other and to the divine; our hope for healing and for transformation. Let the Spirit of our Creator move through us. Help us to transform and heal our communities. And let us begin by transforming ourselves. Amen.

(Adapted from Vigils Against Violence by Pat Long and Vandy Bradow)



All violence is injustice. Responding to violence with violence is injustice, not only to the other person but also to oneself.

Responding to violence with violence resolves nothing; it only escalates violence, anger and hatred. It is only with compassion that we can embrace and disintegrate violence. This is true in relationships between individuals as well as in relationships between nations (Thich Nhat Hanh).