

Christ's Episcopal Church

Prayers for Humanity
and Peace in the Wake of
Texas School Shooting



Lord hear our prayers!

WELCOME TO CHRIST'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PUBLIC SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING

MAY 26, 2022 • 6:30 PM

OPENING SONG

Stay with Me

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
No - ho pū, no - ho mai me ia'u, ki - a'i a

pray watch and pray.
pu - le, kiai a pule.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

A prayer for Uvalde from the Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas.

O God our Father, whose beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them: Give us grace to entrust your beloved children of Uvalde to your everlasting care and love, and bring them fully into your heavenly kingdom. Pour out your grace and loving-kindness on all who grieve; surround them with your love; and restore their trust in your goodness. We lift up to you our weary, wounded souls and ask you to send your Holy Spirit to take away the anger and violence that infects our hearts, and make us instruments of your peace and children of the light. In the Name of Christ who is our hope, we pray. Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

A prayer by Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit of comfort in the aftermath of this most recent school shooting.

We who have so much to do and so much on our minds are truly broken help us reach out to you, to seek quiet spaces to hear your voice.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We who are taking action seek your guidance.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

A Prayer for a Child Who Dies by Violence

Loving God, Jesus gathered your little ones in his arms and blessed them. Have pity on those who mourn for these children, innocents slaughtered by the violence of our fallen world. Be with us as we struggle with the mysteries of life and death; in their pain, bring your comfort, and in our sorrow, bring your hope and your promise of new life, in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

After a Violent Act

Almighty and merciful God, whose only Son came to preach peace to the nations: Hear us, we beseech You, and comfort us with Your steady Hand, as we come before You this [day/night] in the wake of unspeakable violence. In a world that seems hopeless, help us to remember that our hope rests always in You, and in the resurrection of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

From Episcopal Relief and Development

O God of Abundant love, in the aftermath of another horrific act of violence, we pray for blessing and healing in the Uvalde, Texas community. We pray for the innocent lives lost, their loved one and all who were present during the attack and who are grappling with its aftermath. Inspire each of us to act with prophetic love so that violence has not place to grown in this world.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

In Times of Conflict – Book of Common Prayer 824

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A candle is lit and silence is kept

A Prayer for the Human Family – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 815*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

For Young Persons – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 829*

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A candle is lit and silence is kept

On the Occasion of a Disaster – *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints (Church Publishing: New York), page 733*

Compassionate God... Draw near to us in this time of sorrow and anguish, comfort those who mourn, strengthen those who are weary, encourage those in despair, and lead us all to fullness of life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

A candle is lit and silence is kept

A Prayer for First Responders - *Adapted from the Book of Blessings, #587, by Diana Macalintal*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy, who through your Son gave us a marvelous example of charity and the great commandment of love for one another. Send down your blessings on these your servants, who so generously devote themselves to helping others. Grant them courage when they are afraid, wisdom when they must make quick decisions, strength when they are weary, and compassion in all their work. When the alarm sounds and they are called to aid both friend and stranger, let them faithfully serve you in their neighbor. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

A Prayer for Reconciliation and Forgiveness – *The Episcopal Church*

God of compassion, you have reconciled us in Jesus Christ who is our peace: Enable us to live as Jesus lived, breaking down walls of hostility and healing enmity. Give us grace to make peace with those from whom we are divided, that, forgiven and forgiving, we may ever be one in Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns for ever, one holy and undivided Trinity. Amen.†

A candle is lit and silence is kept

For People Harmed by Gun Violence – *Common Prayer for Children and Families, pg. 112*

Loving Lord, Source of all healing,
you weep when love gives way to hatred,
and our souls, once again, weep
for those harmed by gun violence;
where weapons replace prayers,
where peace is overcome with anger,
may our heart grow bold,
and may our communities be transformed
by our actions and our voices,
working through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

For Guidance – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 832*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with *thy* most gracious favor, and further us with *thy* continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in *thee*, we may glorify *thy* holy Name, and finally, by *thy* mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

For Protection – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 832*

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of *thy* servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by *thy* gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A candle is lit and silence is kept

For Quiet Confidence – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 832*

O God of peace, *who hast* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *thy* Spirit lift us, we pray *thee*, to *thy* presence, where we may be still and know that *thou art* God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A candle is lit and silence is kept

A Prayer for One Who Has Killed

Holy God, we lift into the light of your justice the one who has taken the life of your children. Where our hearts are stone return to us hearts of flesh; that grief may not swallow us up, but new life find us through Jesus the crucified, with whom we are raised by your power. Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

Prayer for those who Influence Public Opinion – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 827*

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A candle is lit and silence is kept

For Guidance – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 832*

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light *riseth* up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what *thou wouldst* have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in *thy* light we may see light, and in *thy* straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A candle is lit and silence is kept

A Prayer for One Who Has Killed

Holy God, we lift into the light of your justice the one who has taken the life of your children. Where our hearts are stone return to us hearts of flesh; that grief may not swallow us up, but new life find us through Jesus the crucified, with whom we are raised by your power. Amen.

A candle is lit and silence is kept

For our Enemies – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 816*

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis – *Book of Common Prayer, pg. 833*

Prayed together

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The service concludes in silence—people may remain in quiet prayer as long as you would like.



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