

A Vigil  
in Response  
to Acts of Mass Violence

4:00 PM  
January 26, 2020

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Newport News, Virginia

## **The Invocation**

*All stand as they are able.*

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my own peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

**People: Amen.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

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 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.*

## **The Readings**

*The people are seated.*

Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

But you, whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you, and will not cast you off"; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who says to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."

The Word of the Lord.

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn *You Are Mine*

1. *“I will come to you in the silence,  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice.  
Be still and know I am here.  
Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.”*
  
2. *“I am hope for all who are hopeless,  
I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light.  
Come and rest in me.  
Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.”*
  
3. *“I am the Word that leads all to freedom,  
I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.  
Stand up, now walk and live!  
Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.”*

Reader: Let us read Psalm 130 responsively by half verse.

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice;  
*let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.*

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,  
*O Lord, who could stand?*

For there is forgiveness with you;  
*therefore you shall be feared.*

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;  
*in his word is my hope.*

My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
*more than watchmen for the morning.*

O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
*for with the Lord there is mercy;*

With him there is plenteous redemption,  
*and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever; world  
without end. Amen.*

Reader: A reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

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.

The Word of the Lord  
Response: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn 597 *O day of peace that dimly shines*

1. *O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.*

2. *Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for

righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

The Word of the Lord.

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

## Thoughts from the Congregation

### The Litany

Leader: The litany we will use is said in three parts: Intercessory, Prophetic, and Penitential.

The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Leader: Let us pray.

*All kneel as they are able. A moment of silence is observed.*

Leader: God the Father, you gave the law that your people might live in peace,

*People: have mercy upon us.*

Leader: God the Son, you suffered violence for the sake of the world,

*People: have mercy upon us.*

Leader: God the Holy Spirit, you bind us together in a community of love,

*People: have mercy upon us.*

Leader: Holy Trinity, One God, you model for us the perfect and holy relationship in which you intend for all people to live:

*People: have mercy upon us.*

*[Silence]*

Leader: For all victims of violence, and particularly for those affected by shootings, we pray to you, O Lord:

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: For those who have been injured, that they might be restored to health, we pray to you, O Lord:

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: For those who are afraid, that they may know your perfect love which casts out fear, we pray to you, O Lord:

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: For those who mourn, that they may be comforted in their distress, we pray to you, O Lord:

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: For all who have died, that they may be received into your compassionate embrace, we pray to you, O Lord:

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

*[Silence]*

Leader: For the first responders, firefighters, chaplains, nurses, and all others who work to restore order, heal the wounded, and care for the needs of the community, we pray to you, O Lord:

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: For all volunteers who give of their time and resources to meet the needs of those affected by these tragedies, we pray to you, O Lord:

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: For leaders, both in the Church and in the government, who strive for greater peace, compassion, and understanding in the world, we pray to you, O Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*[Silence]*

Leader: That the world may one day be free of violence, we pray to you, O Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: That war and bloodshed may one day be no more, we pray to you, O Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: That we may no longer desire revenge when we are wronged, but your justice, which is mercy and grace, we pray to you, O Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: That each of us might be empowered and equipped to work toward a just and peaceful society, we pray to you, O Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: That all people might be united to seek the cause of your Kingdom, we pray to you, O Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*[Silence]*

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for the ways in which we ourselves are complicit in the problem of violence in the world.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for any harm we have done to one another.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for any unkind words we have spoken against one another.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for any prejudice, bitterness, or hate we harbor in our hearts.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for any ill we have wished upon one another.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for the times when we have repaid evil for evil.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for the times when we have been slow to forgive.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: We ask your forgiveness for all we do, think, and say which falls short of your command to us to love one another.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us,

***People: and help us to show mercy to one another.***

*[Silence]*

**Together:**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your Name: your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

Leader: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus Christ 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.*

**The Peace**

*All stand.*

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

**The Concluding Collects**

*The people may kneel.*

Leader: A Collect in Times of Conflict

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 Collect for Our Enemies

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 Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

Please join in the prayer attributed to St. Augustine:

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary; bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

*[Silence]*

### **The Dismissal**

*All stand.*

Leader: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. *Amen.*