

Prayer Service for the 12th Anniversary of 9/11

On Wednesday, September 11th, as we remember our day of fast and prayer, we gather to commemorate the tragedy of September 11, 2001, to mourn the lives lost and the families impacted, and to pray for reconciliation and peace in our nation and our world.

Reader 1: How long, O God, will You forget me? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long must I suffer anguish in my soul, grief in my heart day and night?
Psalm 13
Look now and answer me, O God. Give light to my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death. For my part I trust in your true love. My heart shall rejoice, for you will set me free.

Reader 2: We pray for all those who died twelve years ago in the destruction at Ground Zero, and we pray for all those who died as a result of coming to the aid of victims. May their souls be set free and rest in peace.

Reader 3: We pray for all the families who lost loved ones. May they be comforted and find peace, even in their abiding grief.

Reader 4: We pray for all those who sustained injuries in body and soul on 9/11. May they and their families and all Americans experience healing from the trauma of this event.

Leader: Let us take a moment to mourn all those who have died, who have suffered and who continue to suffer because of 9/11. In their honor, we light these candles.

(12 candles are lit.)

Leader: To continue to honor the victims of 9/11, let us seek peace in our own hearts so we may promote peace in this nation and peace among all peoples. We ask the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, to open our hearts and to reflect during this twelfth anniversary of unspeakable violence, on the possibility, and the hope, of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace among the entire human family.

Reader 5: At the World Trade Center twelve years ago, the flames and ashes proclaimed our brokenness. We wept and grieved for those lost, their families and for ourselves.

Reader 6: But healing is our challenge and our call, our vocation in the Spirit. We are called by God's grace to see beyond destruction, to a hope that all life will be cherished so peace will be possible.

Reader 7: We must continue as a human community to move toward wholeness, to repair the ravages of hate, to bring together rather than to tear apart.

Reader 8: In the spirit of Jesus, help us struggle to offer the open gesture of solidarity to replace the clenched fist, the refusal of the other's hand.

Reader 9: Only in building inclusive community do we construct a healing truth: we are all fragile children of God, needing each other for wholeness.

Leader: Let us end by praying for peace and wholeness in all our communities, in our nation, and in our world with the prayer of Blessed John Paul II:

All: To you, Creator of nature and humanity, of truth and beauty, I pray:
Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all violence and all wars.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer when people put their faith in weapons of destruction.

Hear my voice, when I beg you to instill into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country who are ready to walk the road of peace and to reach out in solidarity to all their neighbors.

Hear my voice, and grant us insight and strength so that we may respond to hatred with love.

O God, hear my voice, and grant the great gift of peace to all your children. Amen