

Giver of Life and Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in harmony and peace. Surround us with your love as we face the challenges and tragedies of gun and all violence in our society. With confidence, let us turn to our God in prayer, saying, **Loving God, make us an instrument of your peace.**

Giver of Life and Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in harmony and peace. Surround us with your love as we face the challenges and tragedies of violence in our world.

**Loving God, make us an instrument of your peace.**

For our dear ones, for our neighbors, for strangers and aliens, those known to you alone, and those for whom we pray (either silently or aloud) (pause), **Loving God, Make us an instrument of your peace.**

God of Righteousness, we pray for those who have the power and responsibility to protect us and to uphold our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. **Loving God, Make us an instrument of your peace.**

God of compassion, we give you thanks for first responders, for police officers, firefighter, EMTs, and all those whose duties put them in harm's way. Give them courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment and grant them compassion for the victims.

**Loving God, make us an instrument of your peace.**

Merciful God, bind up the wounds of all who suffer from any form of violence, especially gun violence. Bless them with your presence and help them find hope. **Loving God, make us an instrument of your peace.**

God, may we not forget those who have died because of any form of violence, which we have allowed to become routine. Receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care.

**Loving God, make us an instrument of your peace.**

God of justice help us, your church, to find our voice. Empower us to change this broken world and to protest the needless deaths caused by violence. Give us power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change. **Loving God, make us an instrument of your peace.**

**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 creation. And we commit ourselves to journey on the path toward a perfect peace—peace in our hearts and in all of our homes, towns, and cities. A journey where with your help and guidance the sound of gunfire and the sounds of all violence are stilled and the laughter of children fills the air. AMEN**