

Prayers of the People on the 20th Anniversary of September 11, 2001

Adapted by The Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Rector, St. Paul's, Riverside

Celebrant: We sit in solemn silence, remembering those who died on September 11, 2001, giving tribute to those whose heroic service to others cost them their lives, committing them all to the grace and love of God.

(A brief time of silence is kept.)

Leader: Let us pray saying, "Bless us and keep us, O God."

For all whose lives are devastated by the violence of terrorism: For those killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and those in the plane crash in Pennsylvania; for the victims of terrorism throughout the world, and for those who live in the midst of conflict and fear, we pray to you, O Lord:

People: ***Bless us and keep us, O God.***

Leader: For all who mourn a tragic loss: For those whose loved ones were killed in these disasters, for all who have lost a spouse or relative, co-worker or friend to violence of any kind, for the grace to build a world free from violence and hatred, we pray to you, O Lord:

People: ***Bless us and keep us, O God.***

Leader: For all those who serve the welfare of people everywhere: For the leaders of the nations and for all in authority, for rescue-workers and firefighters, for peace-makers and peace-keepers, for all who risk their lives to serve the needs of others, we pray to you, O Lord:

People: ***Bless us and keep us, O God.***

Leader: For our children who grow up with violence all around them, on the streets, and in their classrooms: For wisdom in teaching them, gentleness in modeling life for them, and above all things, respect and love for them, we pray to you, O Lord:

People: ***Bless us and keep us, O God.***

Leader: For our world torn apart by conflict and strife, arrogance and hatred, disparity in power and resources, yet bound together in the common ideals of freedom and justice, dignity and opportunity for all; that we may learn the lessons of respect and reconciliation, and that we turn our hearts toward you and away from vengeance, we pray to you, O Lord:

People: ***Bless us and keep us, O God.***

Leader: For our nation and for our country: May we recognize our own individual and collective failings in not seeking equality. May we be strengthened to be seekers of justice for all people, we pray to you, O Lord:

People: ***Bless us and keep us, O God.***

Leader: For all those who are commended to our prayers, the sick, the suffering, and the needy; that they may be relieved of their distress, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: ***Bless us and keep us, O God.***

Celebrant: God of grace, you call all the nations of the earth to cease from strife, that all may join to fight not one another, but their common foes of want and ignorance, disease and suffering. Lead all people out of the way of death and into the way of life; away from destruction and to the building of a new world of justice and peace, liberty, and joy. Great Redeemer of all, hear our prayer, end the dark night of cruelty and fear, and bring in the dawn of mercy and reconciliation, for Jesus Christ's sake.

People: ***Amen.***