
SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE 2

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come let us go to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the path of the Most High.

People: *That we may beat our swords into ploughshares, and our spears into pruning hooks.*

Leader: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war any more.

People: *And none shall be afraid for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.*

Leader: We gather today in remembrance of all those killed by gun violence.

People: *We mourn the loss of 30,000 of our brothers and sisters, killed by guns in our own country.*

Leader: We are a nation at war with ourselves, a people who have forgotten who we are.

People: *We gather today to remember that we are each a child of God. We gather to claim our belonging to each other and our commitment to living the way of God's peace.*

Leader: Come let us go to the mountain of the Lord, that we may walk the path of the Most High.

People: *That we may beat our swords into ploughshares, and our spears into pruning hooks.*

Leader: Neighbor shall not lift up gun against neighbor. Neither shall they learn violence any more.

All: *And none shall be afraid for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts has spoken.*

INVOCATION

Gracious God,

Inspire us with the gift of shalom, the gift of wholeness and the promise of your presence. Give us wisdom to seek nonviolence as an answer to the violence of our lives and world. Give us courage to seek wholeness in a fractured and divided world, to find reconciliation rather than revenge, to abandon the instruments of violence and death and entrust our lives, our homes and our families to you. May your presence fill us and others with the thirst for unity, wholeness, and the desire to see all people valued as created in your image. May we and others receive your Shalom that we might be faithful instruments of your love. Amen.

(Adapted from Episcopal Peace Fellowship, "Gift of Shalom")

HYMN

(Choose one)

- ✦ Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
- ✦ A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
- ✦ Praise to the Lord the Almighty
- ✦ God Will Take Care of You
- ✦ O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- ✦ Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
- ✦ There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
- ✦ Lord of Our Growing Years

SCRIPTURE READING

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, so I shall be saved from my enemies. The cord of death encompassed me; the torrents of perdition assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice and my cry to him reached his ears.

Psalm 18:1-6

GOSPEL READING

But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your cloak do not withhold your coat as well. Give to everyone who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:27-31

CONTEMPORARY READING

Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds. Let us return to ourselves and become wholly ourselves. Let us be aware of the source of being, common to us all and to all living things. Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion, let us fill our hearts with our own compassion – towards ourselves and towards all living beings. Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be the cause of suffering to each other. With humility, with awareness of the existence of life, and of the sufferings that are going on around us, let us practice the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.

Thich N’hat Hanh

HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

TIME OF REFLECTION AND REMEMBRANCE

During this time a list of names of victims can be read, or a pray of confession offered.

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Leader: Let us remember all who have been harmed by violence. We acknowledge the strength of those who survived and of those still struggling to heal. For their sake and for ours, we commit ourselves to building each other up and to healing – together.

People: *Let us remember the families and loved ones of those who have died from gun violence. We acknowledge their pain and their deep grief. They too, are part of our community, and need our love and help towards healing.*

Leader: Let us remember the perpetrators, and the families of those who commit violence. We acknowledge that their lives, too, are devastated and their hopes dashed. For their sake and for ours, we remember that pain goes in many directions from each act of violence.

All: *We will stand up to violence. We stand together expressing our unity, our connection to each other and to the divine; our hope for healing and for transformation. Let the Spirit of our Creator move through us. Help us to transform and heal our communities. And let us begin by transforming ourselves.*

(Written for Vigils Against Violence by Pat Long and Vandy Bradow)

CHORAL RESPONSE

Lord listen to your children praying.
Lord send your spirit to this place.
Lord listen to your children praying
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

SERMON OR MEDITATION

OFFERING

HYMN

CLOSING PRAYER

O Holy God, make of us a receiving people.
Let us walk with your feet.
Let us touch with your hands.
Let your voice speak in and through us.
Let your wisdom be transformed into right action within us.
Let us carry forth your spirit into the world.
Let us be at one with You, O God.
And may each who feels as one with You, know also that we are one with every other, until all
creation is unified in the light of love.

May you go in peace and in the light of God's love.

(Adapted from a prayer by Bebe Williams, July 10, 1994)