

SERVICE OF LAMENT & RECONCILIATION

*Written and compiled by Rev. Ray McKechnie
including material written by
Rev. Rebecca Sumner & Rev. Laurie Ann Kraus*

(Opening music: "Here I Am, Lord")

L1: Tonight we gather to lament, to mourn, to express our anger and our outrage at the violent tragedy that occurred one week ago at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, killing 49 innocent people and wounding 53 more.

L2: Tonight we gather, as people of faith, of no faith, as queer and straight, together seeking answers that don't seem to be forthcoming, seeking hope where all seems hopeless, together looking for ways to move forward beyond tragedy, beyond violence, beyond homophobia, beyond all systems of oppression.

L3: Tonight we as clergy lament the ways that the church has far too often been complicit in all the ways that the LGBTQ community has been marginalized, oppressed, and silenced by our words and by our silence. We regret that the words of life in sacred scripture have been historically twisted and used to exclude and reject. We who have organized this gathering tonight realize that our churches can no longer remain silent.

L4: Tonight we ask the LGBTQ community for your forgiveness. Tonight we pledge that our churches be places of sanctuary should you seek them or desire them.

Dear ones, you are God's beloved. For your wounds--physical and spiritual-- we weep and we pray healing. For the pain you face each day-- physical and spiritual--we wail and we pray healing. For you to be surrounded by God's love-- in spiritual and in physical ways-- we pray.

L5: Tonight as people of faith, we turn to God in the midst of our grief, our pain, and our anger. We invite you all to join us in praying Psalm 13 together, a psalm of lament:

How long, O Lord? How long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way?

How long must I agonize, grieving your absence in my heart every day?

How long will you let my enemies win?

Turn back, respond to me, O Eternal, my true God! Put the spark of life in my eyes, or I'm dead.

My enemies will boast that they have beaten me; my foes will celebrate that I have stumbled.

But I trust in your faithful love; my heart leaps at the thought of imminent deliverance from you.

I will sing to the Lord, for the Lord is always generous with me.

(Music: "You'll Get Through This" words and music by Ty Lacy)

L1: We ask for God to move us beyond our prayers and into action. We ask for more physical spaces and for our hearts to be sanctuaries, places set apart for freedom and safety. We are thankful for all the places we find sanctuary--in our homes, in nightclubs, in places of worship, in nature. We grieve and we feel violated when our places of sanctuary are violated.

L2: Sooner or later, every sanctuary will be invaded, by madness, by death, by decay. Even the Temple in Jerusalem fell. Even the body of God was broken. But here's what Christians believe: that body is still our refuge and strength, that the Lord of the dance won't stay dead. That his pulse won't stop pulsing. That they couldn't take our Sanctuary away.

L3: As we mourn and grieve and organize together, we stand in hope, that you do not let your sanctuary be taken from you. Let us never forget those first times we found sanctuary, and let us remember those who have fallen:

A bell is rung after each name

L4: Stanley Almodovar III

Amanda Alvear

Oscar A Aracena-Montero

Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala

Antonio Davon Brown

Darryl Roman Burt II

Angel L. Candelario-Padro

Juan Chevez-Martinez

Luis Daniel Conde

Cory James Connell

Tevin Eugene Crosby

Deonka Deidra Drayton

Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez

Leroy Valentin Fernandez

Mercedez Marisol Flores

Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz

Juan Ramon Guerrero

Paul Terrell Henry

Frank Hernandez

Miguel Angel Honorato

Javier Jorge-Reyes

Jason Benjamin Josaphat

Eddie Jamoldroy Justice

Anthony Luis Laureanodisla

Christopher Andrew Leinonen

Alejandro Barrios Martinez

Brenda Lee Marquez McCool

Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez

Kimberly Morris

Akyra Monet Murray

Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo

Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez

Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera

Joel Rayon Paniagua

Jean Carlos Mendez Perez

Enrique L. Rios, Jr.

Jean C. Nives Rodriguez

Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado

Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz

Yilmary Rodriguez Solivan

Edward Sotomayor, Jr.

Shane Evan Tomlinson

Martin Benitez Torres

Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega

Juan P. Rivera Velazquez

Luis S. Vielma

Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez

Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon

Jerald Arthur Wright

ALL: For the violence that robbed us of you,

We shout.

For the hatred our culture kindles that birthed this violence,

We scream.

For courage to speak and live love in the face of hatred,

We pray.

L3: At this time you are invited to move around this space, to claim sanctuary here, to light candles, to comfort each other, to be as you are.

*(Music: "Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary," "****Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled," "****Christ Our Peace," "****O God We Call," "For I am convinced")*

****songs from "Holden Prayer Around the Cross"*

L4: Once again, Holy One, we cry, how long, O Lord?

We wonder, when will it be enough?

We pray you will forgive our society which tolerates violence,

Our fearful xenophobia, and our willingness to ignore words and deeds of intolerance aimed at those "others" we fear are not like us.

L5: The same lifeblood—the gift of a loving God—flows through all our veins, and spills out without regard to difference, staining the floors our places of fellowship, community, and learning.

staining our lives with sorrow, fear and regret.

Let the same heart beat as one among us, that we will draw together across these false divides,

And rise up as one to breathe peace where there is no peace,

and heal our communities and our world.

L1: God of life, whose presence sustains us in every circumstance,

As the sound of gunfire echoes across Orlando

we seek the grounding power of your love and compassion.

We open our hearts in anger, sorrow and hope:

For those who have been lost: siblings, neighbors and friends

Your children, enjoying an evening of music and friendship,

Whose lives were ended or maimed in a hail of hatred and gunfire

We pray for those who have been spared and those whose lives are
changed forever

that they may find solace, sustenance, and strength in the hard days to
come.

L5: We give thanks for first responders:

who ran toward gunfire, rather than away

who dropped everything to save the wounded and comfort survivors

We pray for doctors and nurses and mental health providers

who repair what has been broken

who bring healing and hope in the face of the unchecked principalities and
powers of violence.

L1: God of the rainbow, once long ago, you stretched your light across the
heavens to renew your covenant of peace with your people, you promised
not to destroy.

Help us in these days to believe that promise, and to participate in it, and to
treasure the life which it treasures.

In the wake of an event that should be impossible to contemplate

but which has become all too common in our experience,

open our eyes, break our hearts,

and turn our hands to the movements of your Spirit,

that our anger and sorrow may unite in service to build a reign of peace,
where the lion and the lamb may dwell together,
and terror no longer hold sway over our common life.

In the name of Christ, our healer and our Light, we pray, Amen.

L2: Go in peace, but not to be silent.

L3: Vote with your conviction.

L4: Speak out against intolerance.

L5: Donate your blood.

L1: Donate to grieving families.

L2: Talk to your children and teach them to respect diversity.

L3: Volunteer or donate to One Colorado.

L4: Be knowledgeable about the issues that face all who are discriminated
against.

L5: Keep dancing!

L1: Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Amen.

(Music: "I Dare You to Move" words and music by Jon Foreman)

