



Peace Sunday Worship

Sunday, September 12, 2021 @ 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church
3000 Washington Blvd. in Huntington, WV

We're glad you're here!

The Peace Sunday Liturgy

In this service, the people's responses are in bold.

The church bell rings and the people turn to face the Narthex (rear doors of the church)

We gather here today, remembering that fall day in 2017 when we stood outside under the magnolia tree -- ready to walk into this much loved church for the first time in many months, having experienced arson, repairs, renovation and restoration.

We offer to God our compassion and prayers for the young arsonist who changed the life of this Parish forever, praying that God might enter into her life and change her forever too.

That spring, on Easter Monday, a 12-year-old girl found our altar and sanctuary to be a place where she might offer the chaos of her life in fear and fire.

We pray in thanksgiving that the child lived and that even in the crisis of loss and debris this congregation was able to find peace knowing that God would sustain and provide for us and keep us intact as a community grounded in faith and fellowship. We pray again for God to sustain us as we strive to remain in community with one another while being physically distant. We recognize the struggle to find peace in the midst of our aloneness.

We pray in thanksgiving that our first response was the need to pray for the peace of that young soul who believed the weight of her life too much to carry alone. We remember that Jesus tells us to take his yoke upon us because we would discover that he is peaceful and humble of heart. And we remember his promise, that in taking this yoke we will find peace and rest for our souls.

May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding be given to the child who we remember and pray for this day. May that same peace invade our hearts and, consuming the anxiety, chaos and misery of this world, transform all things into signs of hope and songs of joy.

My brothers and sisters let us pray:

God our Father, you sent your Son Jesus to show us the way to a true and lasting peace. Open our minds and hearts to hear his message of peace and follow as his disciples. We ask this through your son Jesus Christ, who with the Holy Spirit reign with you now and forever. **Amen.**

A reading from John (14:25-27)

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." *The reader ends with: The Word of the Lord*

People: Thanks be to God.

A Litany for Peace based on Psalm 88

The bell tolls between the verses

Let us now offer our prayers for peace, remembering the child who came to this church abandoned, frightened, outcast and in chaos. At just 12 years old she was bereft of peace and so we sound the chime twelve times to remember her pain, to pray for her current peace and to ask God to show us how to be a part of the peace so longed for in this world and in our hearts.

By night we cry out, by day we rage at each other

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

Calm us, quiet us, settle us, to hear the cry of those who are hurting

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

Steady us, balance us, ground us, let us listen to the troubles around us

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

Root us in patience, embed your love within us

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

Plant us in the soil of sorrow, and re-create us in empathy,

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

Forgive us, pardon us, free us from bigotry and blindness,

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

One: Support us, sustain us, protect us, as we find words to begin dialogue,

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

One: Restore us in charity, refresh us with hope,

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

One: Enfold us with unity, enrich us in love,

God of Peace, hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

One: Embrace us with courage, temper us with gentleness,

God of Peace hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

One: Help us see You in those around us,

God of Peace hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

One: Help us build communities of unity and justice,

God of Peace hear our prayer. *The bell tolls.*

So that someday we may rejoice in your welcome, and enter your Kingdom singing your praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Eternal God, let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. Let the quietness of God's peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us begin our worship in peace, with thanksgiving!

The church bell rings.

The Opening Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace (#593)

Sung by all

Words: James Quinn (b1919), based on prayer att. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Music: Dickinson College, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979)

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1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
 2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
 3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
 4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
 5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
 2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
 3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
 4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
 5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
 2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
 3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
 4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
 5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

The Word of God

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

You may be seated.

The First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The reader ends with: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 116: 1-8 *Dilexi, quoniam*

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the
voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me
whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

5 The LORD watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped
me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the LORD has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from
stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD *
in the land of the living.

The Second Reading: James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The reader ends with: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn: *Strengthen for service, Lord*

Sung by all

Words: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. Charles William Humphreys (1840-1921); alt. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Music: *Malabar*, David McKinley Williams (1887-1978)

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1 Strength - en for ser - vice, Lord, the hands that ho - ly
2 Lord, may the tongues which "Ho - ly" sang, keep free from
3 The feet that tread thy hal - lowed courts from light do



things have tak - en; let ears that now have
all de - ceiv - ing; the eyes which saw thy
thou not ban - ish; the bo - dies by thy



heard thy songs to clam - or nev - er wak - en.
love be bright, thy bless - ed hope per - ceiv - ing.
Bo - dy fed with thy new life re - ple - nish.

The Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

Please stand if you are able.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Homily

Vivian Kost

The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Let us pray for the Church, that it will always be a faithful sign and instrument of Christ's peace.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the world, that the peace of Christ might take root in every human heart.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our world leaders, that the Holy Spirit will guide them to promote peace and understanding.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the peace and safety of all persons who suffer due to natural disasters, war and violence.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our bishops, priests, seminarians, teachers, parents and all who guide us in our faith, that they might have the wisdom and courage to preach the peace of Christ's Gospel with their lives.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for equality for all races in education, housing, public services and employment opportunity. You created humankind in your image and bless us with your love. Give us strength and courage to speak out

against injustice, and to work for the transformation of unjust systems that keep some in bondage, that we may more fully live out your kingdom here on earth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for ourselves, that we might become peacemakers with our families, our neighbors, and communities.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who have died, especially those victims of the terror attacks of 9/11 and for those who have lost their lives by their own hand.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

God of compassion, you created a world for us to know your love and peace yet, amidst the beauty of creation, we encounter pain and hurt and forces beyond our control. Grant your people quiet spirits and courageous hearts. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Confession: A Litany seeking Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Yet we are preoccupied with money and worldly goods and put our trust in what we possess rather than in your care for us.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Yet we are so concerned about our own rights and self-interest and so little concerned about serving others.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Yet we are impatient under our burdens and unconcerned about the burdens of others.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall have their fill. Yet we do not thirst for you, the fountain of all holiness, and we are satisfied with half-measures and mediocrity.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy. Yet we are so quick to condemn, so slow to forgive.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. Yet we have often regarded persons created in your image as objects of our own discrimination, and can not raise our eyes to you.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Yet we are so often ruthless with each other, and our homes and our world are full of discord and resentments.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, Jesus Christ. you said: Blessed are those who suffer persecution for holiness' sake, for the Kingdom of God is theirs. Yet we suffer no opposition because we have been ashamed of you, our Crucified Savior, and have lived worldly compromises of your Gospel.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, through you we are reconciled and united with God and with one another. Thanks be to God for the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The peace is exchanged with your neighbor in accordance with current COVID protocols.

The Offertory Anthem: *The peace of God*

John Rutter (b. 1945)

*The peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be amongst you,
and remain with you always. Amen.*

The Doxology

Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

***Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Paise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,***

***as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Benediction

Let us go out into the world in peace. Have courage! Hold fast to what is good.

Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering.

Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

The Closing Hymn: *From thee all skill and science flow*

Sung by all

Words: Charles Kingsley (1819-1875), alt.

Music: *The Church's Desolation*, traditional melody; harm. J.T. White (195h cent); adapt. C.H. Cayce (19th-20th cent)

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1 From thee all skill and sci-ence flow, all pi - ty, care, and love,
2 And has-ten, Lord, that per-fect day when pain and death shall cease,

all calm and cour-age, faith and hope: O pour them from a - bove!
and thy just rule shall fill the earth with health and light and peace;

Im - part them, Lord, to each and all, as each and all shall need,
when ev - er - blue the sky shall gleam, and ev - er-green the sod,

to rise, like in - cense, each to thee, in no - ble thought and deed.
and our rude work de - face no more the hand - i - work of God.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music is in a common time signature (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

The Dismissal

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since, as members of one body, you were called to peace.

Colossians 3:15

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The People respond: Thanks be to God.



Deaths by suicide continue to rise in all age brackets in the United States. However, suicides among teens have especially spiked, with an annual percentage change of 10% between 2015 and 2019 for 15- to 19-year-olds.

- Suicide is the **SECOND** leading cause of death for ages 10-24. (2019 CDC WISQARS)
- Suicide is the **SECOND** leading cause of death for college-age youth and ages 12-18. (2019 CDC WISQARS)
- More teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease, **COMBINED**.
- Each day in our nation, there are an average of over 3,041 attempts by young people grades 9-12. If these percentages are additionally applied to grades 7 & 8, the numbers would be higher.
- **Four** out of **Five** teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs
- **The Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System (YRBS)** is a survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that includes national, state, and local school-based representative samples of 9th through 12th grade students. The purpose is to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth in the United States.
- The surveys are conducted every two years to determine the prevalence of these health risk behaviors. Behaviors that contribute to unhealthy lifestyles and those that indicate possible depression and/or suicidal ideation are included. To view the full report, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

During the 12 months prior...	West Virginia	U.S.
Felt sad or hopeless (almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row so that they stopped doing some usual activities)	36.4%	36.7%
Seriously considered attempting suicide	20.9%	18.8%
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide	13.9%	15.7%
Actually attempted suicide	11.2%	8.9%
Suicide attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	3.7%	2.5%

**September is Suicide Prevention Month.
Learn to see the signs in order to save lives.**

WHAT TO KNOW:

- **Risk Factors:** history of mental illness, family history of mental illness, history of abuse, use of drugs/alcohol, significant loss, previous attempts, exposure to suicidal behavior in others, access to lethal weapons, struggles and fears of acceptance with sexual orientation.
- **Warning Signs** - changes in behavior over a period of two weeks: changes in sleep patterns, changes in eating (too much/too little), increased irritability (moodiness or rapid changes in mood), decreased interest in usual activities, isolation, risky behavior.

Should your someone you know **exhibit any of the above for two weeks**, please seek professional help immediately.

PROTECTIVE FACTORS can help keep your child safe:

- Strong coping/problem-solving skills, positive self-image, close family relationships, strong peer support, spiritual faith, involvement in activities, community connectedness, and restricted means (firearms, drugs, etc.).

If a child/student is in distress:

DO:

- Let them know you have noticed changes in his/her behavior and are concerned. *ASK how he/she is feeling.*
- Ask them if they are thinking about suicide, as in "*Are you feeling so bad you've thought about suicide?*" **Don't be afraid to say the 'S' word** - it many times gives them the freedom (safe place) to talk about their thoughts.
- Be supportive, calm, and let them know you care and that there is help.
- If a student: encourage him/her to see a school counselor.
Make arrangements for your child to see a mental health professional. *(Make sure the professional has training in suicide prevention.)*
- If your student: continue to stay in contact with them, talk to and stay in touch with the school counselor/administrator about your concerns with the student.

DON'T:

- Argue or be judgmental about the child/student's feelings or choices.
- Minimize their feelings.
- Ignore comments about suicide (even in a joking manner)
- Be sworn to secrecy
- Try to help on your own
- Not seek help for yourself and your family members, especially siblings when a child is diagnosed with a mental illness.

Per the "**Signs Of Suicide**" Program, remember to "**ACT**" when you find someone struggling:

- **A** - acknowledge their feelings - let them know they are not alone
- **C** - Care, let them know you care about them and will assist them in finding help
- **T** - Tell (if a peer or student - tell a Trusted Adult immediately; a Parent, School Counselor, Teacher, Minister, etc.)

For more information on the "Signs of Suicide" program: <https://mentalhealthscreening.org/>

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE: **800-273-8255**

Prestera Center 24/7 Mental Health Crisis Line: **800-642-3434**

Prayers for our St. John's Community

We pray for each other.

You may ask to have a name added to our list of those for whom we pray. Simply contact the parish office at office@stjohnshuntingtonwv.org or call 304-525-9105.

We pray for all those sick or suffering, for those seeking prayer or guidance and for the departed.

You can also say the name aloud or silently during the prayers themselves.
It is our privilege to pray for those you care about.

We pray for our own needs and those of others.

For St. John's as we search for a new Rector and our Diocese as we elect our Bishop Coadjuter: Almighty God, give of every good gift, look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who will choose a Rector in this church and a Bishop Coadjuter in this Diocese, that we may receive leaders who will care for your people, equip us for our ministries and reach out to all your children in love.

For the ill or those with health concerns: Tyler and Brady, Jacky, Ann, Sue, Martha Blount, Lelah, John, Teresa, Rufus, Bill, Megan, Charles, Monica, June, Sharon, Jon, Lois, Laura, Jonathan, Bobby, Quentin, Dick, Callie, Jessie, Leo, Bob, Skip, Stacy, Frank, Elizabeth, Daisy, Sean, Sharon, James, Christie, Brian, Ray Jr., Amy, Richard, Sonya, Katharine, Michelle, Vic, Ed, Debbie, Alice, Linda, Father Watkins, Kris, Linda, Geneva, Nick, Cassie, Cohen, Jillian, Lance, James, Terry, Gabe, Matthew, Josiah, Susan, Elsie, Carol, Giles, Susan, Joe, Lelah, Chris, Joe, Mark, Karen, Jaden, Alan, Taylor, Ray, Tommy, Herschel, Donna Rose, Sutton, Josh and Payton

For those with cancer or in remission: David, Jeanne, Betty Sue, Hannah, Larry, Chris, Tom, Evelyn, Will, Frank, Willie, Cindy, Joan, B.J., Wilma, Emillie, Joyce, Dale, Keith, John, Angie, Raymond, Kelly, Maggie, Julie, Sarah, Mark, Bill and Josh.

For those in need of any prayer: Scott, Marty, Tom, Elizabeth, Jacob, Travis, Michel, Lisa, Tiffany, Andres, Shane, Eric, Jennifer, Hannah, Drew, Mike, Nicole, Alex, Betsy, James, the Lumsden family, Cassie, the Shafer family and Josh

For those in harm's way and for all first responders: especially Tim, David, Edward, Jared, Ryan, Joey, Cody, Josh, Clay, Andy, Robert, Curt, Jordan, Kristen, Christopher, Tyler, the people of Afghanistan and Haiti, all those in the path of wildfires, earthquakes, storms and other natural disasters.

For those suffering from Mental Distress: Blessed Jesus, in the comfort of your love, I lay before you the memories that haunt me, the anxieties that perplex me, the despair that frightens me, and my frustration at my inability to think clearly. Help me to discover your forgiveness in my memories and know your peace in my distress. Touch me, O Lord, and fill me with your light and your hope.

For all touched by the events of 9/11/01: O Almighty God, who brings good out of evil and turns even the wrath of your children towards your promised peace: Hear our prayers this day as we remember those of many nations and differing faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Hasten

the time when the menace of war shall be removed. Cleanse both us and those perceived to be our enemies of all hatred and distrust. Pour out the spirit of peace on all the leaders of our world that we may be brought through strife to the lasting peace of the kingdom of your Son; Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

For racial equality in education, housing, public services, and employment opportunity: God our Creator, you created humankind in your image, and blessed us with your love. Help us to show that love to one another as we work for equality for all races in education, housing, public services, and employment opportunity. Give us strength and courage to speak out against injustice, and to work for the transformation of unjust systems that keep some in bondage: that we may more fully live out your kingdom here on earth; through Jesus Christ your son, who came to set us free.

For those celebrating birthdays: Nicholas Reynolds (9/1), Rhonda Hughes (9/4), Kent Higgins (9/5), Ian Castleberry (9/6), Christine Hilling (9/6), Jack Bogers (9/13), Linda Vinson (9/17), Jerry Coleman (9/23), Elijah Hilling (9/26), Jackie Rednour-Hallman (9/26), Matt Wilson (9/26)

For those celebrating anniversaries: Karen and Jim Vassar (9/10)

For all those who have died, especially the victims of the 9/11 terror attacks and those who have perished by their own hand. Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, keep in your special care this, our beloved. Wipe away the tears of those whose grief runs deep. Help us to encourage each other throughout this troubled life. Keep us steadfast in faith, constant in hope and ardent in love and bring us all into that place you have prepared in your heavenly kingdom.

For those who mourn: Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with all those who mourn. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Communion with Christ

*(This prayer is from the Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Services
and is prescribed for use with your devotions when Communion is not available)*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated. I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.