**Interfaith Vigil**

**for those who were shot at Pulse in Orlando**

5:30 pm – 6:30

hosted by St. John’s Episcopal Church

**Opening welcome and prayer:**

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Song: I Must tell Jesus all of my sorrows, I cannot bear these burdens alone (2x)**

**Silence and candle lighting – at anytime**

**Scripture Affirmations:**

Lamentation: Psalm 6:2-3
Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
   O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror.
My soul also is struck with terror,
   while you, O Lord—how long?

Psalm 88: 1-3

O Lord, God of my salvation,
   when, at night, I cry out in your presence,
let my prayer come before you;
   incline your ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles,
   and my life draws near to Sheol.

**Silence**

Call to end violence: Ezekiel 45: 9

Thus says the Lord God: Enough, O princes of Israel! Put away violence and oppression, and do what is just and right. Cease your evictions of my people, says the Lord God.

**Silence**

Encouragement to Non Violence: Matthew 5: 38-42

 ‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

**Silence**

Strength for the Work Ahead: Ephesians 6: 10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.  Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

**Silence**

**Reading of the names**

**Silence**

You are invited to share at the microphone you thoughts and prayers.

**Prayer: Pry Me Off Dead Center by Ted Loder reprinted from Guerrillas of Grace**

O Persistent God,

Deliver me from assuming your mercy is gentle.

Pressure me that I may grow more human,

Not through the lessening of my struggles,

But through an expansion of them

That will undamn me

And unbury my gifts.

Deepen my hurt

Until I learn to share it

And myself openly,

and my needs honestly.

Sharpen my fears

Until I name them

And release the power I have locked in them

And they in me.

Accentuate my confusion

Until I shed those grandiose expectations

That divert me from the small, glad gifts

Of the now and the here and the me.

Expose my shame where it shivers,

Crouched behind the curtains of propriety,

Until I can laugh at last

Through my common frailties and failures,

Laugh my way toward becoming whole.

Deliver me from just going through the motions

And wasting everything I have, which is

today, a chance, a choice, my creativity, your call.

O persistent God,

Let how much it all matters

Pry me off dead center,

So if I am moved inside to tears or sighs

Or screams or smiles or dreams,

They will be real

And I will be in touch with who I am

And who you are,

And who my sisters and brothers are. Amen

**Silence**

**Litany of Reclamation**

Leader: In God’s Name:

**People:** **Love overcomes hate**

**Peace overcomes war**

**Life overcomes death**

**Happiness overcomes sadness**

Leader: In God’s Name:

People: **Good overcomes evil**

**Nonviolence overcomes violence**

**Freedom overcomes addiction**

**Generosity overcomes selfishness**

Leader: In God’s Name:

**People: Healing overcomes pain**

**Mercy overcomes sinfulness**

**Comfort overcomes grief**

**Security overcomes fear**

**Leader:** In God’s name:

**People: Light overcomes darkness**

**Unity overcomes divisiveness**

**Hope overcomes despair**

**Laughter overcomes tears. Amen**

**Song:**

**There is more love somewhere**

**There is more love somewhere**

**And I’m gonna keep on till I find it**

**There is more love somewhere**

**Blessing and Dismissal**

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This service was opened by and closed by me.

All other parts were divided among the ecumenical clergy and members of the congregation.