A service of prayer

following the violence in Orlando



June 16, 2016

6:00 o’clock PM

Christ Church Cathedral

35 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01113

The Right Reverend Douglas J. Fisher, Preacher

MUSICAL PRELUDE Fantasy Prelude on AMAZING GRACE Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *Eventide* #662, Blue Hymnal

 William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

PRESENTATION

In a time of such tragedy, there are a range of responses: rage, terror, violation, shutting down, sorrow – and so many more. We ask that all who stand with us in this time enter with a spirit of mourning, honor, desire to heal, and prayer for all who are suffering in the wake of such terror and loss. This is a time not for politics or revenge but a time for remembering those lost to violence, for honoring the sanctity of all life, and witnessing to love that conquers death. When something terrible happens like this, we do not believe it is God’s will and know that God’s heart is breaking with us. We are here to grieve the loss, and name our belief that violence and death are not the end, and that evil will not be the last word spoken.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Here in God’s house as the hours of the day lengthen and the evening shadows draw near, we pause to pray for the 50 people who lost their lives in Orlando, Florida this past week and for their families and loved ones, and for those who were injured. We light these candles to cast aside the darkness of hatred and fear and fill this world with your light, O Lord, the giver of light.

*The first candle is lit from the Paschal Candle and the light is shared throughout the sanctuary.*

MUSIC AS THE CANDLES ARE LIT Andante from Violin Concerto in A Minor

 J.S. Bach

COLLECT

The Lord be with you

***People* And Also with you**

Let us pray…

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by your gracious and ready help through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of Life and Hope, we call upon you now here, and in all places where people are gathered in faith to mark the tragedy of this event. We are in need of your mercy and your creative love. Help us to remember that in your name, all things are possible. And give us your grace to bring all things toward your peace. In Christ’s name. Amen

*Please be seated*

SCRIPTURES

PSALM 10: 1-12

 V. Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?

 Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

**R. In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor—**

**let them be caught in the schemes they have devised.**

V. For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart,

 those greedy for gain curse and renounce the Lord.

**R. In the pride of their countenance the wicked say,**

**‘God will not seek it out’;**

**all their thoughts are, ‘There is no God.’**

V. Their ways prosper at all times;

 your judgements are on high, out of their sight;

as for their foes, they scoff at them.

**R. They think in their heart, ‘We shall not be moved;**

 **throughout all generations we shall not meet adversity.’**

V. Their mouths are filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;

 under their tongues are mischief and iniquity.

**R. They sit in ambush in the villages;**

 **in hiding-places they murder the innocent.**

V. Their eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

they lurk in secret like a lion in its covert;

**R. they lurk that they may seize the poor;**

 **they seize the poor and drag them off in their net.**

V. They stoop, they crouch,

 and the helpless fall by their might.

**R. They think in their heart, ‘God has forgotten,**

 **he has hidden his face, he will never see it.’**

V. Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand;

**R. do not forget the oppressed.**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE (7:11-17)

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother’s only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’ Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, ‘Young man, I say to you, rise!’ The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has risen among us!’ and ‘God has looked favorably on his people!’ This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

*Please extinguish your candles*

HOMILY The Right Reverend Douglas J. Fisher

*In recognition of the public proclamation of our faith, the service continues outside in front of the church on Chestnut St. Please join us as you are able.*

HYMN IN PROCESSION *Alleluia* No. 1, #178 Blue Hymnal

 Donald Fishel (B. 1950)

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Give thanks to the risen Lord**

**Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth**

**He is the King of creation**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth**

**Jesus has died and has risen**

**We have been crucified with Christ**

**Now we shall live forever**

**God has proclaimed the just reward**

**Life for all men, alleluia!**

**Come let us praise the living God**

**Joyfully sing to our Saviour**

LITANY OF RECLAMATION

*Litanist*We pray in God’s name, for in God’s name all things are possible.

***People***  **In God’s Name**

*Litanist*  Love overcomes hate

 Peace overcomes war

 Life overcomes death

 Happiness overcomes sadness

***People***  **In God’s Name**

*Litanist*  Good overcomes evil

 Nonviolence overcomes violence

 Freedom overcomes addiction

 Generosity overcomes selfishness

***People* In God’s Name**

*Litanist*  Healing overcomes pain

 Mercy overcomes sinfulness

 Comfort overcomes grief

 Security overcomes fear

***People***  **In God’s name**

*Litanist*  Light overcomes darkness

 Unity overcomes divisiveness

 Hope overcomes despair

 Laughter overcomes tears

***People***  **In God’s name**

INTERCESSIONS

Good and gracious God, let us forever be witnesses to the power of your saving grace. We thank you that you have made for us a sanctuary where we can bring our prayers and grief. Give us grace to leave our anger in your hands and not be overwhelmed by fear. Source of all life, you created us to be one with each other and with you. May the legacy of this terrible act of violence against our brothers and sisters in Orlando Florida mean a new resolve within each of us. Help us to be truly family to one another, treating all whom we meet with the respect and dignity deserving of the children of God. As partners with you, we are co-creators of life. This is our world, our earth, our sacred home.

We reclaim the Pulse nightclub in Orland, Florida from the grip of darkness and terror, and affirm our commitment to live together in peace. May this be a place of safety, kindness, harmony and freedom for all.

We reclaim the blessedness of all of your children, O God, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Queer, Bisexual and Straight, and we reclaim all places where your sons and daughters have been beaten, harassed and killed. We resolve again to work together for a world where people are free to live together and love together according to the calling of their hearts.

We reclaim the places throughout the world where people have been so hurt by acts of terror. And we pray for those driven by hatreds and mental illness to commit these acts.

We reclaim and reaffirm our bonds of unity with our Muslim brothers and sisters, O God. We ask that you will continue to bless the world’s communities of faith and unite us all who follow God.

Together, we bless these places now. We claim them again for life and laughter. We consecrate them to you.

 We lift before you..

 Stanley Almodovar III, 23 years old

Amanda Alvear, 25 years old

Oscar A Aracena-Montero, 26 years old

Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33 years old

Antonio Davon Brown, 29 years old

Darryl Roman Burt II, 29 years old

Angel L. Candelario-Padro, 28 years old

Juan Chevez-Martinez, 25 years old

Luis Daniel Conde, 39 years old

Cory James Connell, 21 years old

Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25 years old

Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32 years old

Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez, 31 years old

Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25 years old

Mercedez Marisol Flores, 26 years old

Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22 years old

Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22 years old

Paul Terrell Henry, 41 years old

Frank Hernandez, 27 years old

Miguel Angel Honorato, 30 years old

Javier Jorge-Reyes, 40 years old

Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19 years old

Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30 years old

Anthony Luis Laureanodisla, 25 years old

Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32 years old

Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21 years old

Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49 years old

Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25 years old

Kimberly Morris, 37 years old

Akyra Monet Murray, 18 years old

Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo, 20 years old

Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez, 25 years old

Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36 years old

Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32 years old

Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35 years old

Enrique L. Rios, Jr., 25 years old

Jean C. Nives Rodriguez, 27 years old

Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35 years old

Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24 years old

Yilmary Rodriguez Solivan, 24 years old

Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34 years old

Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33 years old

Martin Benitez Torres, 33 years old

Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega, 24 years old

Juan P. Rivera Velazquez, 37 years old

Luis S. Vielma, 22 years old

Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez, 50 years old

Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37 years old

Jerald Arthur Wright, 31 years old

And for Omar Mir Seddique Mateen, who perpetuated this horrible act.

PRAYER AT THE CONCLUSION

God our Creator, who knows every heart and who receives every prayer, may our intentions tonight offered in love be acceptable in your sight. May our prayers contribute to the new beginning of life where life has been taken, and may we today know your peace and help share your love with those in Orlando and throughout the world. In Christ’s name.

May the God of life embrace us all. May we go forth from this place, each a beacon of hope and healing to our world.

And the Blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

FINAL PRAYER

Prayer of St. Francis Together

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

 **O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.**

MUSICAL POSTLUDE Ashokan Farewell Jay Unger



**Thank you to Charles Page and Lani Bortfeld, our musicians**

This service is adapted from a “Blessing Ritual: Reclaiming A Place of Violence” by Marguerite H. Sexton in *Journeys of the Heart* 1993; *Speaking to Silence: New Rites for Christian Worship and Healing*, by Janet S. Peterman; and *Living Without Enemies* by Samuel Wells and Marcia A. Owen, 2011.