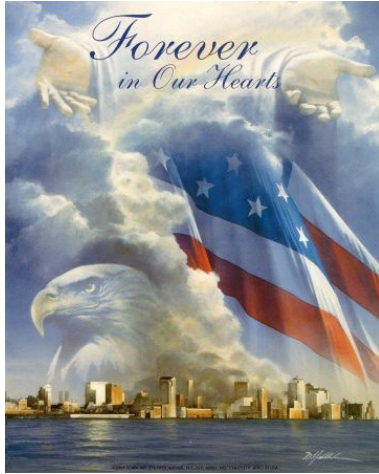


Prayer of Remembrance



Introduction:

Perhaps we can all remember the exact place we were when the first plane hit the World Trade Center. We still remember the terror we felt, the uncertainty of that day, and all those who lost their lives. All around the world, people grieved the nearly 3,000 people who were killed on that day, the single largest loss of life resulting from a foreign attack on American soil. Many families were torn apart and changed forever. Let us join together to REMEMBER the people and events of that day and what has transpired since, and sitting with our fears, may we find God.

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, Creator of all people and all nations, it is with sorrow and apprehension that we remember the tragic events that occurred on this day.

We lift to You in prayer all those who died in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon, and on United Airlines Flight 93 in Shankesville, Pennsylvania.

We entrust them to Your loving care. In the hope that all who trust in You find peace and rest in Your Kingdom, console their families, friends, and all who mourn this loss.

We pray for those who courageously responded to provide aid and comfort to the afflicted. May their painful memories of that day be healed and transformed into strength and positive resolution.

We also pray for ourselves as we seek Your strength and guidance. We live in the aftermath of this tragedy and under the shadow of future acts of aggression. We stand in need of Your assistance.

Enable us, Creator God, to put an end to fear:

- by resolving to live lives that are based on respect for one another;
- by resolving to abide in a peaceful manner and never settle disagreements in our lives in a violent way;
- by resolving not to fall into the trap of blaming entire ethnic groups, races, or religions in response to acts of hostility;
- by resolving that justice, not revenge, prevail in our world.

Let us resolve that we never regard forgiveness as weakness, but rather as a source of strength in our lives and in our world.

Let us resolve that in the face of hatred, we will show love; that in times of despair, we will be voices of hope and creators of new dreams; That in times of darkness, we will be sources of light.

And . . . let us honor the memory of the nearly 3,000 individuals who died on September 11, 2001, by resolving with your help, Almighty God, to truly live this way so You may be glorified, and Your love be made know to others through us. **Amen**

- Brother Darrell Burns (*adapted*)

Opening Reflection:

Please sing: “Shepherd me, O God, beyond my fears, from death into life.”

Psalm 23

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. God makes me lie down in green pastures; and leads me beside quiet waters. God restores my soul. God guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Shepherd me, O God . . .

Reader: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Shepherd me, O God . . .

Reader: You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of our God forever.

Shepherd me, O God . . .

Reflection:

Loving God of Peace: On this anniversary of unbelievable sorrow, comfort those who mourn, and guide our hearts toward healing and hope. Remind us of the love of Christ, love which leapt over cultural and ethnic boundaries to feed the hungry, seek the lost, and care for the least. Make of your children, no matter how we name you, one human family, bound together in the work of justice and peacemaking. Make us one with the Light that shines in the darkness and illumines a path toward understanding and reconciliation. Let love be our genuine call. **Amen.**

- Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Lewis

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Colossians – Col 3:12-15

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgives you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

The Golden Rule

The call to love one another; to understand one another; to treat with dignity and respect those with whom we share a moment on this Earth...And that requires a living, breathing, active faith. It requires us not only to believe, but to do – to give something of ourselves for the benefit of others and the betterment of the world.”

Quiet time and short sharing of our own remembrances of this day.

Closing Prayer:

God of all people, teach us to be patriotic, but humbly so. Teach us to see the frailty, beauty, and value of life considering this tragedy, rather than using it to elevate trivial differences to the heights of divisive reasons for hatred. Remind us of the way the true heart of our nation’s people was revealed in open doors, open arms, and open hearts. May we never forget that on that day we did not focus on nationality, wealth, race or education. We focused on humanity and love for our sisters and brothers everywhere.

Loving God, Call us back to that place in our hearts, Instill in us the deepest sense to be that people once again. We lift up to you all those who, even today, all these years later, suffer from the loss. May we continue to heal and help each other just as we did that day. Amen