

Silence the Violence -June Prayers of the People

Week 1: Lament & Naming the Reality

Opening Bidding:

God of life, we gather in a world where too many lives are cut short, where the sound of gunfire has become too familiar, and where children learn lockdown drills before they learn to read. We refuse to look away. We come to pray, to grieve, and to be changed.

Prayers

God of mercy, we pray for young people who fear being shot at school, who scan exits in classrooms, who wonder if they will make it home.

Silence the violence, O God: **Stir us to protect them.**

We pray for parents and caregivers who live with constant anxiety sending their children into a world they cannot make safe. Silence the violence, O God: **Move us to comfort them.**

We pray for communities where gun violence is not an interruption but a pattern and Silence the violence, O God: **Bring peace into grief.**

We pray for the leaders of our communities and the world, to act quickly for justice and peace. Silence the violence, O God: **Break the cycle.**

We pray for those who have died whose names we know (*names may be offered here*) and names we will never hear. Silence the violence, O God:

Remember them, and do not let us forget.

We pray for those who have caused harm, for lives shaped by trauma, fear, and access to weapons that the chain of violence may end, here, now, with us.

Silence the violence, O God: **Transform us and our communities.**

We pray for ourselves and your whole Church; for the courage to face what is true, the honesty to name our part, and the will to act.

Silence the violence, O God: **Begin with us.**

Closing Prayer

God of life, open our eyes, break our hearts, and move our hands until your peace is more than a prayer. Amen.

Week 2: Responsibility & Safety

Opening Bidding

God of truth, we confess that violence lives in our country, our systems, our schools, and sometimes even in our own homes. Today we pray not only for change in our systems, and in our our communities.

Prayers

God of mercy, we pray for children and teens who encounter unsecured firearms in homes, in cars, in places meant to be safe.

Silence the violence, O God: **Make us guardians of safety.**

We pray for gun owners, for wisdom, discipline, and care that every weapon may be stored securely, every life protected.

Silence the violence, O God: **Call us to responsibility.**

We pray that moments of anger, despair or curiosity may not coincide with access to a gun. and become moments of tragedy.

Silence the violence, O God: **Interrupt what leads to harm.**

We pray for young people who are navigating fear, pressure, and identity may find belonging, not violence. Silence the violence, O God: **Surround them with Your love.**

We pray for those who have died whose names we know (*names may be offered here*) and names we will never hear. Silence the violence, O God:

Remember them, and do not let us forget.

We pray for those with authority in our communities, to enact responsible policies that mitigate harm and end violence.

Silence the violence, O God: **Lead us by your wisdom.**

We pray for the Church, that we may be messengers of peace and places of sanctuary from violence. Silence the violence, O God: **Make us instruments of your peace.**

We pray for ourselves, for the courage to have difficult conversations, to ask hard questions, to choose safety over convenience.

Silence the violence, O God: **Strengthen our resolve.**

Closing Prayer

God of life, open our eyes, break our hearts, and move our hands until your peace is more than a prayer. Amen.

Week 3: Community & Advocacy

Opening Bidding

God of justice, violence is not only personal, it is communal, systemic, and sustained. We are not only individuals. We are a people. And what we tolerate, permit, or ignore shapes the world our children inherit.

Prayers

God of mercy, we pray for schools and neighborhoods where gun violence has become expected, and children grow up too quickly.

Silence the violence, O God: **Restore what has been lost.**

We pray for teachers, counselors, and leaders who hold the weight of safety every day, watching, protecting, preparing.

Silence the violence, O God: **Sustain them in their calling.**

We pray for communities of color disproportionately impacted by gun violence - for justice, investment, and healing.

Silence the violence, O God: **Repair what has been broken.**

We pray for lawmakers and leaders that they may choose courage over comfort, and children's safety over political gain.

Silence the violence, O God: **Move them toward justice.**

We pray for the Church, that our mission of reconciliation may be seen in our actions on behalf of your peaceable kingdom.

Silence the violence, O God: **Empower us.**

We pray for those who have died whose names we know (*names may be offered here*) and names we will never hear. Silence the violence, O God:

Remember them, and do not let us forget.

We pray for ourselves that we will not remain silent when action is needed, or passive when lives are at stake.

Silence the violence, O God: **Send us.**

Closing Prayer

God of life, open our eyes, break our hearts, and move our hands until your peace is more than a prayer. Amen.

Week 4: Commitment & Hope

Opening Bidding

God of hope, we gather not because the work is finished, but because it is not. We are not powerless. We are your people: called to protect, to act, to love. Called to be peacemakers. Today, we make our promise.

Prayers

God of mercy, we pray for every child that they may grow without fear, play without danger, and live without the shadow of violence.

Silence the violence, O God: **Let children be safe.**

We pray for a future where guns no longer define our grief, where communities are whole, and the dignity of every human being is honored.

Silence the violence, O God: **Bring your peace.**

We pray for this church that we would not grow weary, that we would not forget, that we will remain steadfast. Silence the violence, O God: **Keep us faithful.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you may guide them with wisdom and give them courage to serve the most vulnerable people and places.

Silence the violence, O God: **Inspire them with your Spirit.**

We pray for those who have died whose names we know (*names may be offered here*) and names we will never hear. Silence the violence, O God:

Remember them, and do not let us forget.

We pray for the strength to follow through not just today, but tomorrow, and the days after that. Silence the violence, O God: **Make us people of promise.**

Closing Prayer

God of life, open our eyes, break our hearts, and move our hands until your peace is more than a prayer. Amen.