

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GUN VIOLENCE SABBATH

(written by the Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Episcopal Bishop of Maine)

Reader: Giver of Life and Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in harmony and peace. Surround us with your love as we face the challenges and tragedies of gun violence.

For our dear ones, for our neighbors, for strangers and immigrants, and those known to you alone, Loving God

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

Reader: God of Righteousness, you have given our leaders, especially Joe, our President, and Gretchen, our Governor, the members of Congress, the judges of our courts and members of our legislatures, power and responsibility to protect us and to uphold our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

For all who bear such responsibility, for all who struggle to discern what is right in the face of powerful political forces, Loving God

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

Reader: God of Compassion, we give you thanks for first responders, for police officers, firefighters and EMTs, and all those whose duties bring them to the streets, the lobbies, the malls and the homes where the carnage of gun violence takes place day after day. Give them courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment and grant them compassion for the victims.

For our brothers and sisters who risk their lives and their serenity as they rush to our aid, Loving God

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

Reader: Merciful God, bind up the wounds of all who suffer from gun violence, those maimed and disfigured, those left alone and grieving, and those who struggle to get through one more day. Bless them with your presence and help them find hope.

For all whose lives are forever marked by the scourge of gun violence, Loving God

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

Reader: God Who Remembers, may we not forget those who have died, more than 7500 this year, in the gun violence that we have allowed to become routine. Receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care.

For all who have died, those who die today, and those who will die tomorrow,
Loving God

All: Make us instruments of your peace.

Reader: God of Justice, help us, your church, find our voice. Empower us to change this broken world and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Give us power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change. We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our presiding bishop; and for Diane, our rector. We pray for the Standing Committees of Eastern and Western Michigan, and for our diocesan staffs. In our diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Church of the Mediator, Harbert – Darlene Kuhn, Rector; and for St. John's, Charlotte – Wendy Brown, Priest-in-Charge. For your dream of love and harmony, Loving God

All: Make us instruments of your.

Reader: All this we pray in the name of the One who offered His life so that we might live, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**