

## Opening Worship – Metro DC Synod Assembly

Saturday, June 18, 2016

“For the Healing of the Nations...”

*Portions of the liturgy have been written and hymns selected by the Racial Equity Synod Team.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered together as the assembly for the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, we pray for the church, for our time together, for the world, and for those in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition ends with “Lord in your mercy,” and the assembly responds with “**hear our prayer.**”*

In the midst of tragedy, dear God, teach us to imagine a way forward: to love through hate, to move through fear, to loudly proclaim NO to hate and YES to love, to reach out, hand in hand through our tears, through our doubts and into a better tomorrow. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Help us to trust that God’s love will heal our brokenness, rebuild communities, restore relationships. May streets and homes in Orlando and Charleston and countless other place all around the globe be filled with hands that are reaching out, stepping up together. Love enough for all—standing together. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for victims of gun violence and for friends and families that must struggle every day without their loved ones. We especially remember the Charleston Nine on this the first anniversary of their deaths and for the

community of Mother Emmanuel AME church. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the community of Orlando Florida and all communities across this nation that have seen so much violence and death. We especially remember the lives that were taken in the early morning hours of this past Sunday. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing to those whose bodies and spirits are wear, sick or in pain. We especially remember those who are recovering from violence and those that we name with our lips or in our hearts (names may be spoken here) Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of peace, mercy and justice, we pray for renewed action and perseverance in reforming our American gun laws, especially the sale of automatic weapons. We pray for the Islamic community; that they not be targets of hate and violence. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray that every ism and phobia that justifies the killing of colorful bodies and souls may be overcome... and violent hearts turned to paths of peace. We pray for the courage to act when our faith summons us to be counted among the change agents and peace makers. And we pray for the grace and confidence that nothing will separate us from the eternal love of God in Christ Jesus. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of this assembly, as well as other synods in assembly this weekend: Grand Canyon, Northern Illinois, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Upper Susquehanna synods. We pray for the Spirits guidance as elections are held and decisions are made. Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the healing of the nations...

*Use the hands that have been provided to write a prayer. Place them in the offering plate as you come for communion. These will be distributed at the conclusion of the assembly today for you to take home and to continue the prayers.*

*The assisting minister concludes:*

For all these things, Lord, and those that only you know we need, we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**