

Service of Lament and Healing

*A prayer vigil to be offered at the site of a violent death
Council of Churches of Santa Clara County*

Gathering Words

Jesus said, "Come to me all who are weary and heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Unison Prayer

Loving God, we gather to seek your peace and mercy on our county and on the people whose lives have been so brutally affected by violence over the past year. Be with us now and always. Amen.

Song (choose one Taize chant)

"O Lord hear our prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me!

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

or

"Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace"

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, you alone, O Lord are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!

Reading from Lamentations

...when reader prompts:

"But call this to mind, and therefore have hope:"

please respond in unison:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

God's mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning;

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord!

Prayer for person who died, perpetrator, and community

God of peace and justice, please send your healing spirit upon this place as we remember the violence and death which has occurred here. Open our hearts to your love and guidance as we struggle to know that all is in your hands, that you care for this person who has died, their families and friends, the perpetrator and the community. We ask your blessings on all who have suffered and will suffer from these acts of violence, as we pray the prayer your son Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer (Please join using your own tradition, or with the words below)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings – (choose one: Isaiah 25:6-9 or Rev. 21:3-5a, 66-67)

Closing Prayer (Unison)

O Lord, support us all the day long,
Until the shadows lengthen,
And the evening comes,
And the busy world is hushed,
And the fever of life is over,
And our work is done.

Then, in your mercy,
Grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest,
And peace at the last.
Amen.

Song “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Blessing and Benediction

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled nor let them be afraid.”

The Lord bless you and keep you and fill you with the peace that the world can never give. Go forth into the world and love one another even as God loves you – both now and forever. AMEN

Sponsored by the Council of Churches of Santa Clara County
www.councilofchurches-scc.org
408-297-2660

Reading from Lamentations (from Lamentations 1-3)

Reader 1:

*How lonely sits our neighborhood! How we weep bitterly in the night!
Our streets mourn; our doors are desolate; our leaders groan.*

Reader 2: (Shelley Chaney)

*Look, O Lord, and consider!
The young and the old are lying on the ground in the streets;
Our young men and young women have fallen by the sword.*

Reader 1:

*For these things we weep; our eyes flow with tears.
Our elders sit in silence; our young bow their heads to the ground.
We seek a comforter, one to revive our courage.*

Reader 2: (Shelley Chaney)

*Cry aloud to the Lord! Let tears stream down like a torrent.
Arise, cry out in the night! Pour out your heart like water before the Lord!
Lift up your hands to God, for the lives of your children!*

Reader 1:

But call this to mind, and therefore have hope:

Unison:

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord!*

A Reading from Isaiah - Chapter 25:6-9 (excerpts)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And on this mountain God will destroy the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; and God will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all their faces, and the disgrace of the people God will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day: Lo, this is our God; we have waited so that God might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

A Reading from the Revelation to John - Chapter 21:3-7 (excerpts)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne of heaven saying, "'See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God's people, and God will be with them; and will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'" And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new. Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. I will be their God and they will be my children."