

A PRAYER WHEN VIOLENCE SEEMS OVERWHELMING

ADAPTED FROM PRAYERS IN DAILY PRAYER, THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP BY REV. LYNN MILLER

God of the ages, you have always attended to the needs of your people.

Hear us now, we pray!

At a time when our land is seeing what seems to us to be unprecedented violence, spread your Spirit of calm among us.

We pray for all those who have lost someone they love.

We pray for those who have witnessed horror.

We pray for those who are wounded in body or spirit.

Send the grace of your Spirit to each of them.

Give comfort and courage to those who are suffering.

We remember especially those who serve others—rescue workers and police officers, nurses and physicians, and volunteers of every kind.

Give strength and skill to them as they work to save and to heal.

Fill them with your breath of life as they bind up the brokenhearted, heal bodies, and bury the dead.

Give us your peace that passes all understanding in our moments of shock and sorrow,

and open our eyes, hearts, and hands to the movements of your Spirit.

Give us courage to follow where your Spirit leads us.

Restore our hope and mend our hearts, that we may be examples of your peace amid the turmoil of our times.

Holy God, giver of peace and author of truth, we confess that even within your Church we are divided and at odds with one another. Take from us the mistrust, party spirit, contention, and all evil that now divides us.

Work in us a desire for reconciliation, so that we may pursue your purposes with one heart and a single mind, devoted to you, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.