

Prayer and Meditation Resources
Following the Uvalde, TX Shooting
Prepared for Westminster-Lincoln
May 25, 2022

Words of Scripture

Psalm 46 (NRSV)

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ 'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
- ¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. ^[d]

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Romans 8:22-26

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Book of Common Worship Prayers

Prayer I

Gracious God, the news of this day
Has ripped our hearts and torn our souls.
We are walking through the valley of the shadow of death. In
the depths of pain and anger, we gather before you,
O God, our rock and our refuge.
You are our only comfort.
You are our only hope.
Merciful God, you know the depths of suffering.
We have only begun to mourn those lost.
Uphold all those who love those who have died, we pray.
Faithful God, surround those who suffer in your everlasting
arms.
Hear our cries of despair,
Heed our calls for justice,
And do not let us lose hope,
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Prayer II

God of the ages, you have always been faithful to your people.
Come to us now, we pray!
Give comfort and courage to those who are suffering.
Give strength and skill to those
Who are working to save and to heal.
Give us your peace that passes all understanding
In these moments of shock and sorrow.
Open our eyes, hearts, and hands to the movements of your
Spirit,
That we might be comforted and comfort others
In the name of Christ, our healer and light. **Amen.**

Modern Writings (Hymns and Poems from Presbyterian Sources)

If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers

A Hymn Lamenting Gun Violence

(To the tune O Waly Waly LM "Though I May Speak")

2017, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

"If we just talk of thoughts and prayers,
and don't live out a faith that dares
And don't take on the ways of death,
our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.
God, may our prayers and dreams and songs
lead to a faith that takes on wrongs
That works for peace, and justice, too,
then will our prayers bring joy to you."
(If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers, copyright 2017 CWG)

When I Heard About the Shooting (5/24/22)

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Shandon Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC

(@writing.lightly)

When I heard about the shooting
(another shooting)
I hugged my dogs close
because I needed to open my arms to love.
And then I wept,
thinking about all the arms
that will be empty tonight.
this is what happens
when we love our guns
more than we love our children.

Please, tell me again
how the biggest threat to our schools
is what books are in the libraries
And please, tell me again
about how we must be unwaveringly committed to live
from its very first moment.

When Jesus said
let the little children come to him,
this is not what he meant.