

## MOMENTUM – PRAYER LITANY

### 1<sup>st</sup> Candle: Litany for Justice and Peace: Remembering our Grief

#### Opening Prayer

Leader 1, J: At this time of remembering September 11, 2001, let us pray.

Leader: 2, S: We remember the shock, horror, sadness and fear of that day.

**All: We turn to you, O God, for security and strength.**

Leader 1, J: We remember the anxiety over the loss of our sense of safety.

**All: We seek your comfort and peace, O God.**

Leader 2, S: We grieve for the victims of all of the tragedies of that day: those killed, injured, lost. (silence)

We entrust them to your loving presence, O God, for all eternity. We remember too all whose hearts are heavy with the loss of family and loved ones at this anniversary. We especially give thanks for the witness of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Families for Peaceful Tomorrows who have made of their profound grief -- a cry for peace.

**All: We ask you to surround them, comfort and sustain them.**

Leader 1 J: We remember the spirit of unity in our own nation, and the outpouring of support and compassion from around the world following the 9-11 attacks.

**All: We ask for your guidance to help us rekindle that spirit.**

**All: We turn to you, God of justice and peace, for guidance and strength. Helps us to always choose the path of life that you have set before us and to follow in the ways of compassion and love.**

**Prayer (Leader 1) God of Compassion**, we ask for your healing on our wounds of grief, both personal and communal, and the sense of vulnerability following September 11<sup>th</sup>. May the memory of this national tragedy move our people to understand better the vulnerability, horror and fear of so many around the world living daily under bombs, amidst conflicts, in refugee camps, and the innocents suffering from all forms of physical and economic violence. May we remember how our true security rests in You.

**SONG: Peace Salaam Shalom**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Candle. Litany for Justice and Peace: Prayer of Repentance**

Prayer. Lighting of the Candle

Leader 1 D: God, over and over you call your sons and daughters, and whole nations, to acknowledge their wrongs. We grieve the violence that followed from our country's response to September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Leader 2 J: For acts of revenge instead of reconciliation.

**All: Forgive us O God.**

Leader 1 D: For engaging in torture.

**All: Forgive us O God.**

Leader J: For when we have failed to see the sacred in every human being, those from every country and every religion.

**All: O God of Mercy, show us the path of peace.**

Leader 1 D: For the times we have lacked courage and failed to speak against the demonizing of people of other religions, especially our Muslim sisters and brothers.

**All: O God of Mercy, show us the path to peace.**

Leader 2 J: For the times we have not been persistent enough in our efforts to end our country's addiction to militarism and war.

**All: In your mercy, O God, show us the path to peace.**

Leader 1 D: For those suffering from economic and physical violence due to racism or from our country's misplaced budget priorities, especial our young people without jobs, those in prison, those vulnerable to gun violence in our city streets, and for immigrants living in daily fear. For the ways we have denied justice to members of our human family.

**All: Help us O God, to build a path to justice, for all.**

Leader 1 D: Trusting in your mercy and compassion, we repent of these wrongs and pray for your forgiveness.

**Prayer. God of Grace,** help us to live in right relationship with all people and with all of Creation. We trace the movement of your grace in our history, with humility. We remember the gestures of international solidarity following September 11<sup>th</sup>, including candlelight vigils and other public expressions of support, from across Europe, Africa, and Latin America to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine, and from all corners of the world. May we as a nation feel such compassion toward all people suffering, and find ways to embrace "inclusive security" --living as members of the global community. Amen.

**SONG: Peace Salaam Shalom**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Candle. Litany for Justice and Justice: Vision for the Future**

#### **Prayer**

Leader 1 C: Lift up before us, O God, your vision of how we can move from this day forward, into lives more consistent with your will.

**All: God of Life, help us to seek your will.**

Leader 2 J: Strengthen our hope when it falters. Enkindle our flame. Embolden us. Teach us to strive in all we do to realize the hope that is in your word and witness.

**All: God of Life, help us to carry out your will.**

Leader 1 C: We pray for faith in the promise of a future in which no one shall be afraid, nor lift up a sword against a neighbor. We pray for peace among nations, religions and cultures, until we become reconciled to one another, and truly become “the beloved community.”

**All: God of Peace, show us the way.**

Leader 1 J: We pray that our country may use this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a time to reflect, and to learn lessons from the paths we chose in response to the 9-11 attacks. May it be a time to examine how “violence begets violence” and turn away from efforts to justify wars abroad and fan fears and hatred at home, Help us to imagine-- and engage others in imagining -- how “another world is possible.”

**All: God of Wisdom, show us your way.**

Leader 1 C: We pray to be renewed in our commitment to actively engage in peacemaking. We give thanks for our fellow peace-makers in this room, our companions in the journey, and people all over this globe who courageously are working for justice and peace.

**All: Spirit of Peace, fill us as we go out and build peace.**

#### **Closing Prayer: God of Wisdom,**

Loving God, you inspire us with faith, hope and love. Give us this night the strength and courage to transform the compassion of our hearts into acts of peace mercy and justice. Renew and empower us to help shape a world marked by ways that lead to justice and peace. Fashion in us a people who are more ready to grow in understanding of others, a people determined to heal wounds rather than inflict them. Help us to reach out to others and build a stronger Pax Christi movement for justice and peace. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus who came among us to show us the way. Amen.

**Song: Peace Salaam Shalom**



## Background – for Participants

### PRAYERS with the LIGHTING OF CANDLES

**Opening [Scott]:** In the midst of the darkness of violence, we look for the light. As a sign of our faith, in this light—the Light who has already come into the world, the Light that the darkness can never overcome, we will light candles this night.

Candles too are a sign of hope, the fire of hope in each of us that burns with passion and love, and keeps us going as we try to end suffering and help build a more just and loving world.

#### 1. FIRST CANDLE [Jean]:

We light the first candle in memory of those who died on September 11<sup>th</sup>, in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon, and in the field in Pennsylvania. (pause) We remember too their families and friends whose hearts still are heavy with grief, but whose love for their beloveds help keep their spirits alive.

(Colleen goes to light the candle)

#### 1st Litany for Justice: Remembering our Grief

Leader [Jean]: At this time of remembering September 11, 2001 and reflecting on its meaning for our lives, let us pray.

Leader: [Scott]: We remember the shock, horror, sadness and fear of that day.

**All: We turn to you, O God, for security and strength.**

Leader [Jean]: We remember the anxiety over the loss of our sense of safety.

**All: We seek your comfort and peace, O God.**

Leader [Scott]: We grieve for the victims of all of the tragedies of that day: those killed, injured, lost.  
(silence)

We entrust them to your loving presence, O God, for all eternity. We remember too those whose hearts are heavy with the loss of family and loved ones at this anniversary. We especially give thanks for the witness of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Families for Peaceful Tomorrows who have made of their profound grief -- a cry for peace.

**All: We ask you, O God, to surround them, comfort and sustain them.**

Leader [Jean]: We remember the spirit of unity in our own nation, and the outpouring of support and compassion from around the world following the 9-11 attacks.

**All: We ask O God for your guidance to help rekindle that spirit.**

**All: We turn to you, God of justice and peace, for guidance and strength. Helps us to always choose the path of life that you have set before us and to follow in the ways of compassion and love.**

**Prayer: [Jean] God of Compassion**, we ask for your healing on our wounds of grief, both personal and communal, and the sense of vulnerability following September 11<sup>th</sup>. May the memory of this national tragedy move our people to understand better the vulnerability, horror and fear of so many around the world living daily under bombs, amidst conflicts, in refugee camps, and the innocents suffering from all forms of physical and economic violence. May we remember how our true security rests in You. Amen.

SONG: Peace Salaam Shalom

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## **2. SECOND CANDLE**

**(MJ)** We light our second candle for all who have suffered from the spiral of violence as a result of our government's militarized response to September 11<sup>th</sup> : for the people of Afghanistan (pause); for the people of Iraq-- victims of the immoral and illegal pre-emptive war on their country (pause), for those tortured in Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and secret cells all over that are part of the US "war on torture," (pause) for the thousands of US service personnel killed and maimed as well as their family members (pause), and for the poor in this country and our own children who have suffered from the stealing of our national wealth for military budgets-- instead of for schools, libraries, and health care.

**(Donna: light the second candle; pause in silence, then Donna begins the second Litany)**

### **2nd Litany for Justice: Prayer of Repentance**

**Leader: [Donna]** God, over and over you call your sons and daughters, and whole nations, to acknowledge their wrongs. We grieve the violence that followed from our country's response to September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Leader [Judy Coode]:** For acts of revenge instead of reconciliation.

**All: Forgive us O God.**

**Leader [Donna]:** For engaging in torture.

**All: Forgive us O God.**

**Leader [Judy]:** For when we have failed to see the sacred in every human being, those from every country and every religion.

**All: O God of Mercy, show us the path of peace.**

**Leader [Donna]:** For the times we have lacked courage and failed to speak against the demonizing of people of other religions, especially our Muslim sisters and brothers.

**All: O God of Mercy, show us the path to peace.**

Leader [Judy]: For the times we have not been persistent enough in our efforts to end our country's addiction to militarism and war.

**All: In your mercy, O God, show us the path to peace.**

Leader [Donna]: For those suffering from economic and physical violence due to racism or from our country's misplaced budget priorities, especial our young people without jobs, those in prison, those vulnerable to gun violence in our city streets, and for immigrants living in daily fear. For the ways we have denied justice to members of our human family.

**All: Help us O God, to build a path to justice, for all.**

Leader [Donna]: Trusting in your mercy and compassion, we repent of these wrongs, and pray for your forgiveness.

**Prayer: [Judy] God of Grace,** help us to live in right relationship with all people and with all of Creation. We trace the movement of your grace in our history, with humility. We remember the gestures of international solidarity following September 11th, including candlelight vigils and other public expressions of support, from across Europe, Africa, and Latin America to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine, and from all corners of the world. May we as a nation feel such compassion toward all people suffering, and find ways to embrace "inclusive security" --living as members of the global community. Amen.

**SONG: Peace Salaam Shalom**

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### **3. THIRD CANDLE [Ron]:**

We light our third candle, the candle of HOPE. (pause) May it represent our hope for a new beginning, a non-violent path for our country and for our world. (pause) May this candle also remind us to draw on God's strength and on each other-- to keep our inner flame burning. May we be filled with passion, vision and HOPE to persevere in our vocation as peace-makers, peace-builders.

*(Ron lights the third candle)*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Litany for Justice: Vision for the Future**

Leader 1 [Cynthia]: Lift up before us, O God, your vision of how we can move from this day forward, into lives more consistent with your will.

**All: God of Life, help us to seek your will.**

Leader 2 [Judith K]: Strengthen our hope when it falters. Enkindle our flame. Embolden us. Teach us to strive in all we do to realize the hope that is in your word and witness.

**All: God of Life, help us to carry out your will.**

Leader 2: [Cynthia]: We pray for faith in the promise of a future in which no one shall be afraid, nor lift up a sword against a neighbor. We pray for peace among nations, religions and cultures, until we become reconciled to one another, and truly become "the beloved community."

**All: God of Peace, show us the way.**

Leader1 [Judith]: We pray that our country may use this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a time to reflect, and to learn lessons from the paths we chose in response to the 9-11 attacks. May it be a time to examine how "violence begets violence" and turn away from efforts to justify wars abroad and fan fears and hatred at home, Help us to imagine-- and engage others in imagining -- how "another world is possible."

**All: God of Wisdom, show us your way.**

Leader 2 [Cynthia]: We pray to be renewed in our commitment to actively engage in peacemaking. We give thanks for our fellow peace-makers in this room, our companions in the journey, and people all over this globe who courageously are working for justice and peace.

**All: Spirit of Peace, fill us as we go out and build peace.**

**Prayer: [Ron] God of Wisdom,**

Loving God, you inspire us with faith, hope and love. Give us this night the strength and courage to transform the compassion of our hearts into acts of peace mercy and justice. Renew and empower us to help shape a world marked by ways that lead to justice and peace. Fashion in us a people who are more ready to grow in understanding of others, a people determined to heal wounds rather than inflict them. Help us to reach out to others and build a stronger Pax Christi movement for justice and peace. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus who came among us to show us the way. Amen.

**Song: Peace Salaam Shalom**