

The Kentucky Council of Churches

Prayer in Action Days

February 20, 2018



Gun Violence

"How Long, O Lord?"

Welcome

Rev. Kent Gilbert, President of the KCC

Music

Mitch and Melody Barrett

Scripture & Reflection:

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?

Isaiah 59:1-8

See, the LORD's hand is not too short to save, nor [the LORD'S] ear too dull to hear. Rather, your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden God's face from you so that God does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue mutters wickedness.... Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they rush to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths. Their roads they have made crooked; no one who walks in them knows peace.

Music

If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers

O WALY WALY 8.8.8.8 ("Though I May Speak")

1. 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.
2. If we just dream of what could be
And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways,
Our dreams of change are false displays.
3. If we just sing of doing good
And don't walk through our neighborhood
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
Our talk of good is simply vain.

4. 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.

Biblical References: Isaiah 58; Matthew 7:21, 24-27; 1 Corinthians 13:1; James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:18-24

*Tune: Traditional English melody ("Though I May Speak") **(MIDI)***

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*Email: **bcgillette@comcast.net** New Hymns: **www.carolynshymns.com/***

Permission is given for free use of this hymn in local churches.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, We confess that in our lives we do not always choose the way of peace. We spread gossip which fans the flames of hatred. We are ready to make any sacrifice for "profit" or "efficiency" when the world demands, but few when God invites us to become "repairers of the breach."

We worship the false god of security. We are tempted to trust in the idolatry of violence, guns, coercion for our protection. We hold out one hand in friendship, but keep weapon in the other behind our back. We have divided our communities into those we trust and those we do not. We have let greed divide and define our sensitivity to the common good. Huge problems challenge us in the world and in our own communities, but our fear and selfishness prevent us from uniting to solve them.

Lord, we need your help and forgiveness, your healing and reconciling power. Soften the hearts who have been hardened by violence. Make a way where no way has been: in us, in this legislature, in the hearts of all that by the power of Jesus the healer, we may lay down our weapons and idols and take up the holy work of saving lives. This we hope, and this we pray: Amen.

(adapted from National Council of Churches of Christ, "An Ecumenical Celebration of the Word," www.nccusa.org/2004ecumenicalcelebration.html)

Music

Engaging the Issue

We are grateful for the work of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (<https://momsdemandaction.org/>) and for the staff of the Gun Violence Archive (www.gunviolencearchive.org).

Responsive Reading

Let us remember those lives lost, and the families and loved ones of those who have died in violent crimes.

We acknowledge their pain and their deep grief. We grieve our dead, Lord, with tears that fall like rain. For their families, devastated and often torn apart, we pray for the care and community of your love to heal their wounds.

Let us remember all who have been harmed by violence.

We acknowledge the strength of those who survived and of those still struggling to heal. We pledge to work for the day when "none shall hurt or destroy on all this Holy Mountain."

Let us remember the perpetrators, and the families of those who commit violent crimes.

For those who wound, we acknowledge the brokenness of their lives and beg for their healing, God. For their families, devastated and often torn apart, we pray for the care and community of your love to heal their wounds.

For the sake of all who suffer because of action or inaction around the cult of weapons,

We will stand up to violence.

For the sake of every child, every teen, every citizen

We will stand up for laws that reduce the harm of violent intents.

Let the Spirit of our Creator, the God of life, move through us.

Help us to transform and heal our communities, our culture of death;

Help us transform our minds, soften our hearts, sharpen our resolve, and build the beloved community of which you dream.

We go in peace and with hope. Amen!

Closing Song

GUN VIOLENCE Archive 2018

Total Number of Incidents	7,284
Number of Deaths ¹	2,015
Number of Injuries ¹	3,468
Number of Children (age 0-11) Killed or Injured ¹	74
Number of Teens (age 12-17) Killed or Injured ¹	387
Mass Shooting ²	34
Officer Involved Incident Officer Shot or Killed ²	42
Officer Involved Incident Subject-Suspect Shot or Killed ²	321
Home Invasion ²	295
Defensive Use ²	201
Unintentional Shooting ²	234

Gun violence and crime incidents are collected/validated from 2,500 sources daily – incidents and their source data are found at the gunviolencearchive.org website.

1: Actual number of deaths and injuries

2: Number of INCIDENTS reported and verified

22,000 Annual Suicides not included on Daily Summary Ledger

Numbers on this table reflect a subset of all information collected and will not add to 100% of incidents.

www.gunviolencearchive.org www.facebook.com/gunviolencearchive

Data Validated: February 19, 2018

GUN VIOLENCE Archive

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GUN VIOLENCE Archive 2014-2018

KY STATS

Total Number of Incidents	4,075
Number of Deaths ¹	1,036
Number of Injuries ¹	1,844
Number of Children (age 0-11) Killed or Injured ¹	40
Number of Teens (age 12-17) Killed or Injured ¹	188
Mass Shooting ²	19
Officer Involved Incident Officer Shot or Killed ²	20
Officer Involved Incident Subject-Suspect Shot or Killed ²	145
Home Invasion ²	251
Defensive Use ²	157
Unintentional Shooting ²	184

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