

Disarming Hearts: A Vigil of Remembrance

June 13th, 2026 at 4:00pm (Onsite & Online)



Meditation

“Let us lament with all those who are touched by gun violence. Let us lament shooters’ choices for violence. Let us lament laws that allow easy access to guns. Let us lament our politicians’ unwillingness to work for change. Let us lament with the hearts broken by loss. Let us lament all the lives cut short. Let us lament and then let us rise to work for change.”

-Ellen Clark-King, Nuns Against Gun Violence

Prelude

David Wilson

Welcome

Rev. Paula Womack

Opening Prayer

Rev. Tyler Ung

*Song

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

All Gathered

Let there be peace on earth and let it be - gin with me; _____

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. _____

As one hu - man fam - ily, _____ child - ren all are we. _____

Let us walk with each o - ther _____ in per - fect har - mo - ny. _____

Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now. _____

With ev - ery step I take, may this be my so - lemn vow: _____

To take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly. _____

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

From the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 2:4: "...They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise the sword against another and never again will they train for war."

Deuteronomy 30:19: "...I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live...."

From Thich Nhat Hanh

"Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds.
Let us return to ourselves and become wholly ourselves.
Let us be aware of the source of being,
common to us all and to all living things.
Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion,
let us fill our hearts with our own compassion—
towards ourselves and towards all living beings.
Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be
the cause of suffering to each other.
With humility, with awareness of the existence of life,
and of the suffering that are going on around us,
let us practice the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth."

From Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

"I don't accommodate myself to the violence that goes on everywhere; I'm still surprised. That's why I'm against it. We must learn how to be surprised. Not to adjust ourselves."

***Responsive Reading**

Hannah Parker

One: Yearning for an end to violence and suffering,

Many: We grieve together.

One: Yearning for a true peace where all feel safe and whole,

Many: We grieve together.

One: Yearning for greater justice, compassion, and wisdom,

Many: We grieve together.

One: In the shadow of violence we remember we are all connected in love.

Many: We grieve together.

One: In the shadow of violence we recommit to working for a better world.

Many: We grieve together.

One: In the shadow of violence we find comfort and courage in each other.

Many: We grieve together.

***Song**

"If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers"

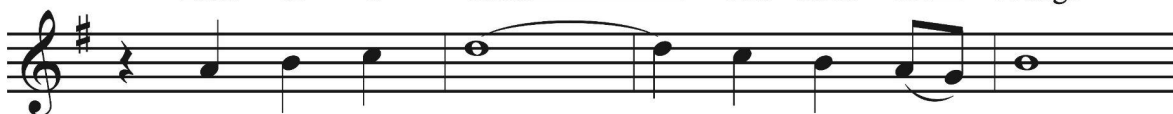
All Gathered



1. If we just talk _____ of thoughts and prayers
2. If we just dream _____ of what could be
3. If we just sing _____ of do - ing good
4. Oh, may our prayers _____ and dreams and songs



And don't live out _____ a faith that dares,
And do not build _____ com - mu - ni - ty,
And don't walk through _____ our neigh - bor - hood
Lead to a faith _____ that takes on _____ wrongs—



And don't take on _____ the ways of _____ death,
And do not seek _____ to change our _____ ways,
To learn its hope, _____ to ease its _____ pain,
That works for peace _____ and jus - tice, _____ too.



Our thoughts and prayers _____ are fleet - ing breath.
Our dreams of change _____ are false dis - plays.
Our talk of good _____ is sim - ply vain.
Then will our prayers _____ bring joy to you.

Remembrances

Kathy Austin, Debbie Beroth, Laura Carter-Schied, Phil Kaveler,
Ada McKerrell, Mary Pat Peters, Rev. Tyler Ung and Rev. Paula Womack

***Song**

"Within Our Darkest Night"

All Gathered



With-in our dark-est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a -



way, nev - er dies a - way. With-in our dark-est night, you kin - dle the



fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Angela Hollar

Moving to the Forge

Rev. Paula Womack, Rev. Stan Wilson, Scotty Utz

Postlude

David Wilson

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Service Participants:

Kathy Austin (she/her)

Debbie Beroth

Laura Carter-Scheid (she/her)

Rev. Angela Hollar

Phil Kaveler

Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano (he/him)

Ada McKerrell

Hannah Parker (she/her)

Mary Pat Peters (she/her)

Rev. Tyler Ung (they/them)

Scotty Utz (he/him)

David Wilson (he/him)

Rev. Stan Wilson (he/him)

Rev. Paula Womack (she/her)

Covenant Partner of Umstead Park United Church of Christ

Covenant Partner of Umstead Park United Church of Christ

Covenant Partner of Umstead Park United Church of Christ

Pastor of Windborne United Methodist Church

Member of Community United Church of Christ

Rector of Church of the Nativity

Covenant Partner of Umstead Park United Church of Christ

Church of the Nativity, Rising 7th Grader at Brogden Middle School

Covenant Partner of Umstead Park United Church of Christ

Senior Minister of Umstead Park United Church of Christ

Blacksmith and Artist at RAWtools South (Asheville, NC)

Director of Music at Umstead Park United Church of Christ

Coordinator of RAWtools South, Co-Pastor of Circle of Mercy (Asheville, NC)

Associate Pastor of Umstead Park United Church of Christ

Special Thanks to:

Reed Altman and Bill Yoder (he/him) from the Umstead Park United Church of Christ Audiovisual Team for helping make the service and Zoom possible.

Sponsors of Guns to Gardens Safe Disposal Event & Disarming Hearts: A Vigil of Remembrance:

Umstead Park United Church of Christ; RAWTools South; Beth Meyer Synagogue; Windborne United Methodist Church; Church of the Nativity; Community United Church of Christ; Pullen Memorial Baptist Mission and Outreach Council; The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi; and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh.

Portions of the service adapted from:

Episcopal Bishops Against Gun Violence; Caitlin Cotter Coillberg of the Unitarian Universalist Association; Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence at The Table UGA; Bishop Bob Farr of the United Methodist Church; Pullen Memorial Baptist Church; Jewish Community Relations Council; and Rev. Mark Koenig, former director of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations.

About the Sculpture On the Umstead Park UCC Communion Table:

From Rev. Stan Wilson, RAWtools South, Asheville, NC:

Winds of Change (wood & steel)

"Whenever he feels a breeze or gust of wind my friend Dan says, 'The Spirit is on the Move' with a tone of admiration mixed with amazement. I love this practice and have claimed it for myself; it's a great reminder to pause for a moment, squint and try to see where the Spirit is moving and what it might be asking of me. The Spirit is always on the move whether or not I'm paying attention. For those of us who believe in a dynamic and creative God, keeping a finger on the pulse of 'Where is the Spirit moving now?' is a large part of our practice.

"There is a growing movement to end gun violence in America and I believe Spirit is a part of that broadening effort. This little sculpture can remind us that Spirit is at work here and now, even indoors. Made from three different gun parts: an overturned rifle stock as the base, a cylinder from a revolver, and the lining of a barrel twisting up and out moving in multiple directions. The wispy part can turn in the revolver cylinder and point in different directions.

"Trinitarians might see these three interconnected, structurally dependent parts, as a reminder of the three persons of God whose relational dynamics create not just the wind but everything that is salvific all the way down to the very Ground of Being. If you look closely on the tip of the gun stock it is stamped 1944. I don't know if it was used in WWII, but it could have been. Using a slice of this stock and turning it upside down is in the same Spirit of the Nonviolent Jesus overturning tables in the temple. It seeks to turn over and look with curiosity at what perversions of Love have become normal and accepted practices. We, the followers of Jesus, can sit with whom Jesus would ask us to kill? The Spirit is on the move."