

# NATIONAL VIGIL

FOR VICTIMS, FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS  
OF GUN VIOLENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018 • 7 PM  
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

## A MESSAGE FROM DEAN HOLLERITH

On behalf of all the staff, clergy and congregation of Washington National Cathedral, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this house of prayer for all people. We are very glad that you have made the journey to be in Washington on this important weekend, and we want you to know that you always have a home in our Cathedral.

The goal of tonight's vigil is to call the nation to prayer: to pray for an end to gun violence, to pray for safety for our children in every city and in every town, and to pray for courage in the work ahead.

For years, this Cathedral has been outspoken in its call to end the plague of gun violence that infects our homes, our neighborhoods and our schools. This work is rooted in our commitment to Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves and it is an important part of our ministry to build God's peaceable Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Tonight, we gather out of a conviction that the right to bear arms does not trump the right to life. We gather with the assurance that if we work together we can find common-sense measures that will protect the most vulnerable among us. We gather knowing that "thoughts and prayers" on their own will not solve the epidemic of gun violence.

We give special thanks for the students of Parkland, Fla., and to youth around the country, for all they have done to provide moral clarity to this work. Too often, the adults of this nation have failed our children, and we pray that we may be worthy of the energy and enthusiasm so many young people have brought to this work.

There is much to be done, and we look forward to partnering with you in building a country where every child is safe and every life is valued. May God bless you in our work together!



The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith  
Dean, Washington National Cathedral

**NATIONAL VIGIL**  
**for Victims, Families and Survivors of Gun Violence**  
**Friday, March 23, 2018 • 7 pm**  
**Washington National Cathedral**

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**PIZZICATO**

*Chelsey Green and The Green Project*

**AS**

*Stevie Wonder, arr. Chelsey Green and The Green Project*

*performed by Chelsey Green and The Green Project*

**AL SHLO SHA**

*Allan Naplan*

*performed by the Children's Chorus of Washington*

**WE RISE AGAIN**

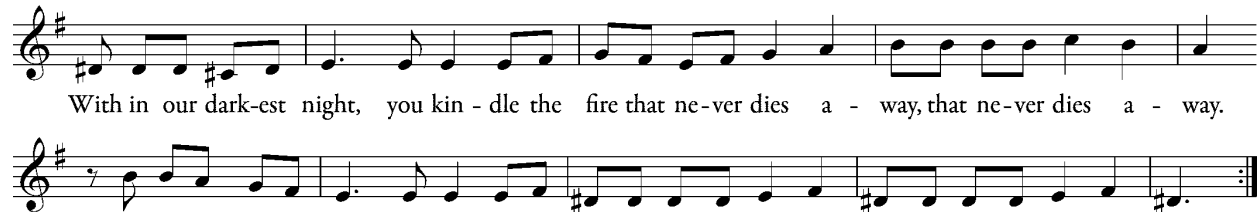
*Leon Dubinsky*

*performed by the Washington National Cathedral Band*

**PROCESSION**

*The people stand. The vocalists sing the verses. The people sing the refrain:*

Refrain



With in our dark-est night, you kin - dle the fire that ne-ver dies a - way, that ne-ver dies a - way.

Within our darkest night, you kin - dle the fire that ne - ver dies a - way, that ne - ver dies a - way.

**WELCOME**

*The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington*  
*The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, Cathedral Dean*

**LEADER** Creator of the world, eternal God

**ALL** We have come from many places with many voices.  
We have come with all our differences, seeking common ground.  
We have come on journeys of our own, to this place where journeys meet.

**LEADER** We welcome all ...

**CALL TO PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

*The people are seated.*

**ESPERA**

*Esperanza Spalding*

*performed by the Washington National Cathedral Band*

I almost gave up holding on watching us give into our fears, I almost believe, almost believe. All the world is helpless sorrow. No hope for a bright tomorrow. But I'm not sure enough to give it up, no. Now as I learn how I must work for change I nearly cave in from the weight, I almost believe, almost believe. All the sorrows will consume me 'til peace among men I never can see but I'm not sure enough to give it up. I'll keep faith like so many souls who won't be drowned by evil in the world. I have faith in mankind that we can guide our choices towards a healthy world in time to ease our bind. For only hard work through time can change men's minds, I know. If we make some small changes now we'll heal ourselves, somehow, somehow. I don't expect to ever taste the fruit my life devoted could bring forth. I almost believe. Well I do believe! Oh the path to peace is endless so, choosing to close our eyes makes our faults mendless. Of this I'm sure enough, I won't give up. I'm sure enough and I won't give up.

## VOICES OF REMEMBRANCE

### REFLECTIONS

- VOICE 1** We gather today with shattered hearts—hearts broken open by sorrow, which sometimes seems too unbearable. We know far too well the trauma and grief of losing a loved one to gun violence. We come to this place to raise our voices for the victims who are so near and dear to us.
- VOICE 2** We are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, friends and neighbors who have had the knock at the door in the middle of the night, or the phone call in the early morning hours. We have waited in hospital emergency rooms or stood on street corners—when word came to us that our beloved one had been taken from us by a gun.
- VOICE 3** For us gun violence is not some distant issue that is debated in theory. Gun violence is a reality that has altered our families forever. It has taken our cherished children. It has taken parents, brothers and sisters. It has separated us from the love of our lives. It has left a hole in our hearts that feels too deep to fill.

### HEART BE BRAVE

*Naimah Muhammad*

*performed by Naimah Muhammad*

When your faith is not as strong and you can't carry on. When the weight's a burden you can't bear alone. I'll be here to catch your fall, you won't ever need to call, 'cause you'll never be alone.

So keep no fear in your heart. I'll be here to keep you strong. Through all the things kept unknown, a friend like me will be the one to tell you: Heart be brave, heart be bold. You can move mountains when the road gets long. And when you're standing in the eye of a storm, heart be brave, heart be bold.

When your fear has taken hold, and you can't carry on. When you need the push to leap into your dreams. I'll be here when you're in need of courage to achieve. I'll be there to help you to believe.

So keep no fear in your heart. I'll be here to keep you strong. Through all the things kept unknown, a friend like me will be the one to tell you: Heart be brave, heart be bold. You can move mountains when the road gets long. And when you're standing in the eye of a storm, heart be brave, heart be bold.

## VOICES OF THOSE AFFECTED BY GUN VIOLENCE

### REFLECTIONS

- VOICE 1** We gather on this day to remember. We come to remember people throughout our nation who have been affected by gun violence. Communities large and small, urban and rural have been broken and battered by gun violence. Tears have been shed and communities have been shattered. We gather to remember and to weep and to declare that the time for change is now. You are invited to name your town, city or state at this time.
- VOICE 2** We gather to remember and to stand in solidarity with survivors and to declare our support for those who still struggle in the face of such trauma and grief. For their sake and for ours, we commit ourselves to building each other up and to moving forward towards a more peaceful world.
- VOICE 3** We come here this evening to affirm that we are connected by an “inescapable network of mutuality” and “tied in a single garment of destiny. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.” It does not matter how large the city or how small the town—trauma and sorrow claim far too many of our citizens. For too long the tears of frightened children, the cries of inconsolable parents and the weariness of long suffering neighborhoods have been ignored. We declare on this day that our nation must turn from this path of fear and destruction.
- With all who join us—in cities and towns across this land—we here this night proclaim together in one voice:
- ALL** From so many heartbreaks comes forth a united commitment to go into the streets of our cities and towns and promote a way of peace and well-being for all people. With compassion sown from the threads of sadness and horror, we will mend a nation tattered by gun violence and weave a new cloth of hope and peace.

*The people stand.*

## A LITANY IN THE AFTERMATH OF GUN VIOLENCE

**LEADER** Giver of Life and Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in peace. Surround us with your love as we face again the tragedy of gun violence.

For the children and adults who were killed, the many who were wounded and hospitalized, the traumatized, grieving survivors, and those known to you alone,

**REFRAIN**

Cantor All



O Lov - ing God, make us in - stru - ments of peace.

The musical notation is a single staff in G-clef and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'O Lov - ing God, make us in - stru - ments of peace.' The final note is a whole note G4.

**LEADER** God of Righteousness, you have granted our leaders, especially Donald, our President, and Muriel, our Mayor, the members of Congress and of our courts and legislatures, power and responsibility to protect us, and to uphold our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Strengthen their devotion to our common life and give them clarity of purpose.

For all who bear such responsibility, for all who struggle to discern what is right in the face of powerful political forces,

### REFRAIN

**LEADER** God of Compassion, we give you thanks for first responders: police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and all those whose duties bring them to the streets, the schools, the malls and the homes where the carnage of gun violence takes place every day. Give them courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment and grant them compassion for the victims.

For our brothers and sisters who risk their lives and serenity as they rush to our aid,

### REFRAIN

**LEADER** Merciful God, bind up the wounds of all who suffer from gun violence, those maimed and disfigured, those left alone and grieving, and those who struggle to get through one more day. Bless them with your presence and help them find hope.

For all whose lives are forever changed and broken by the scourge of gun violence,

### REFRAIN

**LEADER** God Who Remembers, may we not forget those who have died, more than 30,000 in the past year, in the gun violence that we have allowed to become routine. Receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care.

For all who have died, those who die today and those who will die tomorrow,

### REFRAIN

**LEADER** God of Tender Mercy, be with those who are overwhelmed, enraged, frustrated and demoralized by the plague of gun violence. Give them a sense of your presence and plant in them the seed of hope.

For those whose hope for life in this world is shattered and broken,

### REFRAIN

**LEADER** God of Justice, help us, your church, find our voice. Turn us from the worship of power. Give us courage to confront our false gods and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Help us rise above our dread that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change.

For your dream of a world where children are safe and all of us live together without fear,

### REFRAIN



## PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

### TOLLING OF THE BOURDON BELL

*Bell tolls 51 times, representing each state and Washington, D.C.*

*The people are seated.*

### ISOLATION

*performed by Chelsey Green and The Green Project*

*Chelsey Green and The Green Project*

## CANDLE LIGHTING

**LEADER** We light these candles in memory of all people whose lives have been cut short from senseless acts of gun violence. Though these candles will only burn for a time, the light and love that they bring into their world will remain strong forever. We light these candles to represent our hope as we face the future. Although our lives have been marked by pain and loss, and although pain will remain, we hope for a future that also has joy and happiness. We light these candles to represent the peace that we seek in our lives. May we find comfort and solace in the midst of our pain.

**ALL** **May the light of these candles remind us of the perseverance of the human spirit that always seeks life and love even in life's most painful moments.**

**CUANDO EL POBRE NADA TIENE** *words Jose Antonio Olivar; music Miguel Manzano, arr. William Z. Cleary*  
*performed by the Washington National Cathedral Band (sung in Spanish and English)*

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort, when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness, when we love though hate at times seems all around us. Then we know God still goes that road with us.

*Cuando alguien sufre y logra su consuelo, cuando espera y no se cansa d'esperar, cuando ama, aunque el odio nos rodee. Va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar. Va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar.*

## VOICES OF HOPE

### REFLECTIONS

**VOICE 1** Although we find ourselves in a broken world—a world in which hurting people far too often hurt other people, we come longing for healing. We gather to pray for peace. Not only that, but we also come pledging to reverse the conditions that have produced such violence and destructive behavior that have torn at the fabric of our families and our communities.

**VOICE 2** Gun violence affects all of us. Our communities may be diverse but the grief and pain are the same. The agony felt by a mother in Newtown, Conn., is the same as the agony felt by a father in Chicago, Ill. Tears which fall for a son in Nickel Mines, Pa., are the same tears that fall for a daughter in Baltimore, Md. The precious gift of life lost in Charleston, S.C., is as precious as any life lost in Washington, D.C. The children we have buried in Atlanta, Ga., are as beloved as those we have buried in Parkland, Fla.

With all who remember and mourn this day, we, as a congregation and people, cry out:

**ALL** **Today we stand together to express our unity and our commitment. We stand as one people against this violence that has touched every corner of every state and in our Nation's Capital. We commit ourselves to journey on the path towards a more perfect peace—peace in all of our homes, houses of worship, schools and places of education, our towns and our cities—to a place where the sound of gunfire is stilled and the laughter of children fills the air.**

**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

*arr. Chelsey Green*

*performed by Chelsey Green and The Green Project*

*The people stand.*

**LITANY OF SENDING**

**LEADER** 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. For their sake and for ours, we commit ourselves to building each other up and to healing—together.

**ALL** Let us remember the families and loved ones of those who have died from gun violence. We acknowledge their pain and their deep grief. They, too, are part of our community and need our love and help toward healing.

**LEADER** Let us remember the families of those who commit violence and the perpetrators. We acknowledge that their lives, too, are devastated and their hopes dashed. For their sake and for ours, we remember that pain goes in many directions from each act of violence.

**ALL** We will stand up to violence. We stand together expressing our unity, our connection to each other and to the divine; our hope for healing and for transformation. Let the Spirit of our Creator move through us. Help us to transform and heal our communities. And let us begin by transforming ourselves. Amen.

**BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

**WE RISE AGAIN**

*Leon Dubinsky*

*performed by the Children’s Chorus of Washington*

*The people stand. The choir sings the verses. The people sing the refrain as service participants leave the platform and lead the gathering out into the night.*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the lyrics: "We rise a-gain in the fac-es of our child-ren, we rise a-gain in the voic-es of our". The second staff contains the lyrics: "song. We rise a-gain in the waves out on the oc-ean, and then we rise a-gain". The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with some rests.

When the waves roll on over the waters and the ocean cries.  
We look to our sons and daughters to explain our lives, as if a child could tell us why.  
That as sure as the sunrise, as sure as the sea, as sure as the wind in the trees.

**REFRAIN** *We rise again in the faces of our children, we rise again in the voices of our song.  
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean, and then we rise again.*

When the light goes dark with the forces of creation across a stormy sky.  
We look to reincarnation to explain our lives, as if a child could tell us why.  
That as sure as the sunrise as sure as the sea as sure as the wind in the trees.

## PERMISSIONS

*A Litany in the Aftermath of Gun Violence*: revised by the author, the Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Episcopal Bishop of Maine, 2/28/18; Permission is granted to amend or adjust as necessary. Litany of Sending: originally a *Litany of Remembrance*, written for Vigils Against Violence by Pat Long and Vandy Bradow, published in the *God Not Guns Sabbath Worship Guide*, © 2007 produced by The Brady Center To Prevent Gun Violence\* as a service to the public. Used by permission.

## MUSIC PERMISSIONS

*Within our darkest night*. Text and music: Jacques Berthier (1923–1994), © 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709283. *O loving God, make us instruments of peace*. Text: attr. St. Francis of Assisi (c. 1181–1226), alt. Music: Michael McCarthy (b. 1966). Used by permission. *We rise again*. Words and music © 1996 Leon Dubinsky. Published by Shagg Rock Sound Limited. All rights reserved.

*\*The Brady Center To Prevent Gun Violence is a national non-profit organization working to reduce the tragic toll of gun violence in America through education research, and legal advocacy. The God Not Guns project, a program of the Brady Center To Prevent Gun Violence, is an interfaith partnership consisting of faith-based groups that work to educate the public about gun violence by promoting community awareness and grassroots mobilization. The programs of the Brady Center complement the legislative and advocacy work of its sister organization, The Brady Campaign To Prevent Gun Violence and its network of Million Mom March Chapters. Brady Center To Prevent Gun Violence 1225 Eye Street NW Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005.*



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL is called to be a spiritual home for the nation. It seeks to be a catalyst for spiritual harmony in our nation, reconciliation among faiths, and compassion in the world. Learn more at [www.cathedral.org](http://www.cathedral.org).

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COVER ON JUNE 2, 2017, THE CATHEDRAL'S WEST FAÇADE WAS LIT WITH ORANGE LIGHTS  
TO CALL ATTENTION TO LIVES LOST TO GUN VIOLENCE. TIME LAPSE PHOTO TONY HACK