

Prayer at a Time of Tragedy

God of infinite love and mercy,
in Christ you have entered into our human brokenness.

On the cross
Jesus took upon himself our evil and violence,
our suffering and pain,
our abandonment and our death.

Be with us in this time of anguish.

Soak up into the Body of Christ our cruelty and malevolence.
Take into your divine heart
the fear and suffering,
the confusion and vulnerability of your children.

Raise all humanity into your resurrection life,
where the cross becomes victory
and death is overwhelmed by life.

Be with us in your infinite love now as we pray:

We remember those who were killed
and those who are dying from the attack in Las Vegas.

Nurture them in your arms
and enfold them into the peace of your eternal heart.

We ask your healing power
for those who are wounded or injured.

Give them hope and perseverance,
bring them to new strength,
grant them insight and confidence
that they may grow even more fully through this crisis.

We offer our consolation for those who mourn.

Protect them from their anguish.
Comfort them with your love.

Give them hope for their altered future.

We pray for a shocked nation and world.

Help us to create a kinder, gentler spirit
throughout your creation.
Cast out the anger that turns to violence
and calm with your healing love
those who intend violent harm.
Protect those whose vocation is to protect,
that they may be wise and courageous.

Give us wisdom and fortitude
to create more just world
where those with mental, emotional or moral limits
may find life-giving alternatives
to their dangerous impulses.

Let your Spirit go forth in power,
giving us faith and trust
when we are confused and troubled,
giving hope to the hopeless,
and filling the world
with your perfect love which casts out fear.

Casting our burdens upon you, we now pray in holy silence...

Closing Collect

For the Human Family (Book of Common Prayer, p. 815) *slightly adapted*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:
Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred
which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of
love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on
earth; that in your good time, all people may serve you in harmony around your
heavenly through; through Jesus Christ our Lord.