

Pastoral Prayer - Sunday after Terrorist Attacks in Paris

O God, once again we come to you with hearts breaking for the pain of loss due to hatred and violence in our world. We are burdened by the events of the last few days in Paris as well as those in recent weeks in other parts of the world. We are weary of worry. We are weary of fear and we long to be hopeful for the future, but must confess, we wonder if that is just wishful thinking.

Lord, turn our hearts and minds toward the good found only in you. You are love. You call us to love one another as you first loved us. Remind us that you are the God of resurrection and that you are good and that you are ultimately in control of the future.

O God, we know that you came into the world to offer us salvation specifically because you knew our nature as human beings. Root out the hatred and prejudice and fear in our own hearts and also, Lord, in the hearts of those who are so lost that they would destroy innocent lives. Their actions make no sense and hurt us all. Banish from this world the darkness that allows such hate to fester and grow. Help us, alongside you, to sow seeds of compassion and love.

Gracious God, comfort those who mourn, bind up the broken hearted, renew hope in all who fear, strengthen those who govern, protect those who go in harm's way to save others and who suffer and die to ensure our freedoms.

Let your love rain down upon us, and let your peace come upon the earth.

All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.