

Memorial to the Lost

A Service of Remembrance

For the 61 Lives Lost to Gun Violence

In Montgomery County 2017-2022



Lansdale United Methodist Church

Monday, January 16, 2023

11:00 AM

Opening Prayer

Tenderhearted God, your son Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem, lamented its ways of violence, lamented that its people did not know the things that make for peace. We trust that you stand among us today, and know you must weep over Lansdale and Montgomery County and the loss of life on our streets due to gun violence. As we come together today to lament, gather us as a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. And let your people dwell securely through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:3-10

L: Blessed are the poor in spirit,

P: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

L: Blessed are those who mourn,

P: for they will be comforted.

L: Blessed are the meek,

P: for they will inherit the earth.

L: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

P: for they will be filled.

L: Blessed are the merciful,

P: for they will receive mercy.

L: Blessed are the pure in heart,

P: for they will see God.

L: Blessed are the peacemakers,

P: for they will be called children of God.

L: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

P: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Reflections

Representative Steve Malagari

District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Andrew Foster

Reverend Steward Warner

Remembrance of the Lost

Bryan Miller

Executive Director of Heeding God's Call

Litany of Commitment

L: In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "The calling to speak is often a vocation of agony, but we must speak. We must speak with all the humility that is appropriate to our limited vision, but we must speak."

P: Listen to our voices

L: We are the mothers and fathers who have children who will never grow old, because they have been shot dead on the city streets.

P: Listen to our voices

L: We are the brothers and sisters who are growing up without seeing what our siblings would become, and we want to end the killing.

P: Listen to our voices

L: We are the cousins, aunts, uncles, neighbors. We are all related to the victims of violence.

P: Listen to our voices

L: We are the children of the Most High God. We speak for the voiceless of Tucson, Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, for the voiceless here in Montgomery County and all the wounded cities and towns throughout this nation, for all beloved communities torn by the ravages of gun violence.

P: Listen to our voices.

L: In the words of Dr. King, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late."

P: Now is the the time.

L: Now is the time to end the senseless killing of our boys and girls, our men and women.

P: Now is the time.

L: Now is the time to cease the profligate sale of assault weapons and all multiple firing guns, weapons meant only for murder.

P: Now is the time.

L: Now is the time to demand that gun dealers adhere to an ethical Code of Conduct that calls businessmen and women accountable to the communities in which they do business.

P: Now is the time.

L: Returning to the voice and message of Martin Luther King, Jr., “We as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a ‘thing-oriented’ society to a ‘person-oriented’ society.”

P: Now is the time.

L: With homage again to Dr. King, we say, “Let us begin. Let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter but beautiful struggle for a new world.”

P: Listen to our voices. Now is the time.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Andrew Foster

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