

Vigil Service Template Addressing Injustice Including deportation, ecological devastation and a host of other concerns

Notes to Religious and/or Civic Leaders:

Possible Theme

Objective:

Opening Music:

EVEN WHEN THE SHADOWS WEEP
(c) 2018 Rev Mike Rayson, O.S.L – mike@mikerayson.net
Hymn Tune: Hyfrodol (UMH 196)
Meter 8.7.8.7 D

On the road toward the city
We shall ride into the pain
Of a death we know is coming
For to die is life to gain
Jesus, teacher, friend, companion
Though this road is rough and steep
We'll go with you through the valley
Even when the shadows weep

Madness, mayhem, curse and trouble
Hold your breath as fire draws near
Thoughts and prayers are well intentioned
Lest we face the tempters fear
May the weapons of our children
Be reformed as tools for peace
Holy Spirit, call us forward
To a time when war will cease

Lord, the saints are sad with sorrow
Spur us on and light the way
Walking where the path is narrow
Give us strength to be the change
Turn our hollow prayers to action
As we stand against the dark
For when your light blazes in us
There can be no brighter spark

On the road toward the city
We shall ride toward the pain
Of a death we know is coming
For to die is life to gain
Jesus, teacher, friend, companion
Though this road is rough and steep
We'll go with you through the valley
Even when the shadows weep

Welcome

Opening prayer/gathering litany

Sacred reading(s)

Sutherland Springs Beatitudes:

Blessed are they who are devastated,
for theirs is the realm of heaven.

Blessed are they who grieve for this country,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed they who are nonviolent,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who long for a culture of peace
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are they who seek healing, not revenge,
for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are they who desire only blessing for all,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are they who work for the healing of the world,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who meet opposition in their work for peace and justice,
for theirs is the realm of heaven.

Blessed are you when people dismiss and insult you.
Rejoice, and be glad:
great is your reward in the heart of all things,
for in just this way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
(Source: Steve Garraas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*)

Music/singing:

Center or gathering rituals (stones to sink fears, flowers to float hopes)

Reading of names (of those who lost their lives)

Prayer

(Dismantling Racism by Devoree Clifton Crist, MD, from *A Child Laughs*, pg. 61)

O God of Love

I ask you to heal my broken heart
with your expansive love. Let love flow
through me that I may heal the brokenness
caused by racism. Turn my anguish into the
power of love so that I may be counted as
one drop in an ocean of drops that

transforms the world as we
know it into the world
as you know it
can be.
Amen.

Community Prayer, Litany of Repentance
(Gender Inclusivity, Changing Laws, Changing Hearts
by Karoline M. Lewis, author & Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, pastor, writer, from *A Child Laughs*)⁸

God of love, we confess that we are in bondage to a view of the world that puts our compromise before your justice; that is unable to name the worth and wonder of all your children; that places people in positions that threaten the very soul of who they are—the soul that you see as unique and glorious.

We confess that, all too often, we perpetuate the sins of [religious institutions], unwilling to tell the truth of the ways in which even those who call upon your name do so for the sake of harm.

We ask for your forgiveness. We pray for wholeness. We trust in the promise of your hope. Grant us, we pray, the courage to speak, the power to empower, the mercy to love.

Amen.

Benediction