

Litany for Love's Sake

“I will give full comfort to them and to those who mourn for them. I, the Creator, who gave them life. Peace, peace to the far and the near, says the Lord; and I will heal them.”

In remembering the loss of so many beloved, distanced, we gather now on holy ground, placed by Providence to speak words into the future. I AM is here.

The men and women – the children, boys and girls – the young and the innocent – who died without cause, without choice, without privileged circumstance

We remember them.

The son, the daughter, the brother the sister, the wife, the husband, whose lives ended too soon, ended too violently, ended too powerless because of their color

We remember them.

The children orphaned by brutality, the parents bereft by bigotry, the families torn apart by intolerance and injustice

We remember them.

The spouses who lost partners, the friends who lost friends, this country's authorities who lost their direction and dignity

We remember them.

The lost and regarded as least, the immigrant and the refugee, the displaced downtrodden, queer and the gay, the transgender and none

We remember them.

The citizens and bystanders who screamed the injustice, who recorded ugly reality, who dialed for help in helpless, hopeless, inescapable tragedy

We honor them.

The people who rallied in peaceful solidarity, arms of equality entwined as truth marched in rhythm to the mantra of black lives matter

We honor them.

The EMTs and medical personnel, the pockets of people in relief stations who treated the injured, the beaten and the tear-gassed

We honor them.

The men and women in professions of protection who safeguarded, secured, trusted and listened to the words said between the lines

We honor them.

The churches that provided safe spaces, the clergy who stood together, worked together, offering comfort and resources

We honor them.

The mental health workers, therapists and counselors who hold the pain of the oppressed and offer guidance and support

We honor them.

The thousands of mask wearers, frontline personnel, blood donors, volunteers and philanthropists - the providers of food and water while a pandemic cripples the poor, unemployed, and all those on the margins in the midst of seismic change

We honor them.

If there is to be any healing it comes one by one – across the nations – heart by heart – recognizing each and every person as a beloved child of God.

From the horror of a way of death and it's prolonged effects on families

We release them.

From the haunting of memories, videos, police reports and autopsy cold details

We release them.

From the fears of uncertainty and vulnerability and the hopeless thought of “things will never change”

We release them.

From the agonizing and paralyzing grief with no end in sight

We release them.

From the subsequent distrust of uniformed authority and loss of respect for government policy on every level

We release them.

From depression, withdrawal, harmful anger, addiction and suicidal ideation for any of God's children because of loss of hope

We release them.

Here and now we stand together – it is our last day – and our first day – it is our only day. We are women of hope, not despair. We are women of vision and prayer. We are women of service and action. This is our sacred vision. This is our vowed commitment.

We hold a vision whereby a conversation about growing up has nothing to do with the color of a child's skin

We vow to make it so.

We hold a vision where all one sees is Love in the face and the eyes of the one we take the time to truly see

We vow to make it so.

We hold a vision of healing even of the darkest memory, the deepest wound.

We vow to make it so.

We hold a vision of peace within our own souls that it may penetrate the boundaries between us

We vow to make it so.

We hold a vision that fear is not the first thing you will think of when you leave your home

We vow to make it so.

We hold a vision where there is no question of who our neighbors are and what they need

We vow to make it so.

We hold a vision where crippling poverty is eliminated – where enough is all any of us need

We vow to make it so.

We hold a vision where there is no questioning of who belongs, where they can live, what jobs they can hold and who they can love

We vow to make it so.

A hold a vision where Love is life and gift and it makes no difference who offers it.

Join us to make it so.

Prayer:

Eternal God, Source of all life, it is to Your strength and wisdom that we turn. Create in us the capacity to embrace what is, yet also the ability to create what can be, in those places where healing and reconciliation demand it. Awaken our eyes to see what truly endures – Your everlasting grace, Your abiding Presence, Your compassion and mercy. We trust in Your promise that there is no thing and no one that is beyond redemption. What endures is the strength of human community – what endures is the hope for that which is good, honorable and worthy in Your sight. What endures is love. AMEN.