

SUGGESTED PRAYERS/LITURGY

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD



Leader: O guiding Shepherd and Refuge from the raging storm, we seek the comfort and consolation of your warm embrace and sheltering care from the violence that swarms around and within us. Everywhere we turn we're told in no uncertain terms that vengeance and war are the cure for the wrongs waged against us. We are a culture prone and addicted to violence and in need of a disciplined recourse of withdrawal from this dangerous drug.

People: *Lord, help us and rescue us.*

Leader: Rescue us from ourselves; our self-absorbed anxieties that overwhelm us with destructive behavior and suicidal tendencies. Release us from a fear and hatred of others that garner our need for guns as a means of protections and insulation from them. Breathe in us your Spirit that radiates life and hope; that enables us to interact positively with others and live as emissaries of your peace.

People: *Enable us to take delight in you, O Lord, for you are the desire of our hearts.*

Leader: Nurture our children in your ways; feed them abundantly by your wisdom and truth. Reorient their coordination from violent video games; suppress their greed for gangster rap; harness their hunger to humiliate and degrade others because of their gender, race or sexual orientation; and free their minds, mouths and bodies of derogatory terms and foul gestures, for these also are destructive weapons.

People: *Lord, help us and rescue us.*

Leader: Grant us, O God, the will to turn all weapons of individual or mass destruction into tools of global sustainability and medical advancement. Inspire in us the courage to rid our streets of gang warfare and stray bullets; to rid our homes of domestic violence and accidental shootings; to rid our neighborhoods of police brutality and our highways of racial profiling; to rid our bodies and environment of toxic abuse and our world of international conflict. Grant every soul a faith in you that affirms your likeness in all humanity and creation, and that never again uses religion as a sword severing anyone from an ultimate sense of worth and dignity. Enable us again, O God, to worship you with an ever burning faith that melts the metal of all vengeance, weaponry and war. Make us instruments of your justice, compassion and peace that your realm may come, and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

People: *Enable us to take delight in you, O Lord, for you are the desire of our hearts.*

Leader: Baruchim Ha'baim b'Shem Adonai (Blessed are you who come in the name of the Lord). Amen

Contributed by Rev. Arnold I. Thomas

GOD NOT GUNS SABBATH LITANY

RESPONSIVE PSALM

FROM PSALM 37

Leader: Do not fear because of the wicked; do not be envious of the wrongdoers

People: *For they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.*

Leader: Trust in the Lord, and do what is good, so that you will live in the land and enjoy security.

People: *Take delight in the Lord, and God will give you the desires of your heart.*

Leader: Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for God;

People: *Do not fear over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.*

Leader: Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.

People: *Do not fear: it leads only to evil.*

Leader: The wicked plot against the righteous, gnash their teeth at them;

People: *But, the Lord laughs at the wicked and sees that their day is coming.*

Leader: The wicked draw their sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to kill those who walk uprightly;

People: *Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.*

Leader: Better is a little that the righteous person has

People: *Than the abundance of many wicked.*

Leader: The wicked borrow and do not pay back

People: *But the righteous are generous and keep giving.*

Leader: Our steps are made firm by the Lord when God delights in our way.

People: *Though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand.*

Leader: Depart from evil, and do what is good; so you may abide forever.

People: *The Lord loves justice and will not forsake the faithful.*

Leader: The wicked watch for the righteous, and seek to kill them.

People: *The Lord will not abandon them to their power, or let them be condemned when they are brought to trial.*

Leader: The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord

People: *God is their refuge in the time of trouble.*

Leader: The Lord helps them and rescues them

People: *God rescues them from the wicked, and saves them because they take refuge in the Lord.*

