**Prayer for the Day: A Lament**

August 29,2021. Gun Violence Awareness and Action Day

Bearing Witness Week of Action 2021, Presbyterian Church(USA)

God of our weary years and our silent tears,

We are shattered by the deaths, each time we #SayTheirNames

Devastated by the losses beyond bearing,

Shamed by our casual tolerance and indifference to the culture of violence that binds us.

We are horrified, angry, despairing

We struggle with a yearning for justice and judgment--

 a knowledge that our prayers alone are not enough

 a hurt that is beyond speech

 a fear that we do not know a way forward that will help

 an emptiness: we have been here before, too many times,

and we know we will walk this bloodied path again.

What can we do, with such fear and anger and longing,

 that can bind us together, rather than further tear apart the fabric of our common life?

We are failing one another, and we are failing You:

 our Maker, our Mercy, our Justice, our Peace.

We pray for our neighbors in cities and communities across our nation:

 Atlanta, Orlando, San Bernardino, El Paso, Indianapolis, Charleston, Louisville,

 Minneapolis/St. Paul, Louisville, Arvada, Boulder, Las Vegas, Reno….

so many that we cannot even begin to name them all….

 and for our whole broken and heartbroken nation

 in this hard season of violence, death and distrust

 each one lost is a child made in Your image.

 each survivor is beloved to You

 each afflicted community is part of your commonwealth.

We lift our prayers for each life lost, each family bereaved,

each neighborhood whose fabric has been violently torn asunder by bullets and hatred and fear.

We pray for ourselves, that this hurt, this outrage, this yearning for justice

 will not fade from our minds before our hearts are broken open

by Your passion for mercy, justice, and love.

Restore our hope, our heart,

 our sense of the possibility of holiness and wholeness in your creation.

Tend the fires of our rage so that they burn for justice and warm hearts that have grown cold.

Make the waters of our tears nourish the river that flows through the city of God,

and the tree of life that is for the healing of the nations.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.