UNITED to Stop Gun Violence

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015, 7 PM
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
VIDEO  “GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS BAND TOGETHER,” CNN

WELCOME  THE VERY REV. GARY HALL

REMARKS  THE RIGHT REV. MARIANN EDGAR BUDDE

HYMN  I CRIED TO GOD

The first verse sung by soloist; please join in for remaining verses.

I cried to God, “Three hundred thirty thousand!”
Five thousand more, six hundred more, and nine!”
In just ten years, a truth we can’t imagine:
All died from guns, one loved one at a time!
And then I heard . . . “Whom shall I send to grieve them?
Go tell the world: ‘I love them! They are mine!’

I asked the Lord, “Why is there so much violence?
If you are God, why don’t you stop the pain?
God, won’t you speak? For all around is madness!
Just say the word and make us whole again!”
And then I heard . . . “Whom shall I send as prophets?
Speak out my truth! Shout till the killings end!”

I knelt and prayed, and wept for all the fallen;
So many lives, so many dreams now gone.
More than a name—each one was someone’s cousin,
Or someone’s child, or someone counted on.
And then I heard . . . “Whom shall I send, who knew them,
To work for peace, to labor till the dawn?

Lord, here am I! And here are we, together!
No one alone can end this killing spree.
The powers of death pit one against another,
Yet you are God and you desire peace.
As mourners, prophets, laborers together,
Give us the strength to make the killings cease.

INTERFAITH VOICES

IMAM TALIB SHAREEF  Masjid Muhammad
RABBI SUSAN LANDAU  Temple Micah

STORYTELLING

MY DISTRICT IS NEWTOWN  Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty
MY CITY IS WASHINGTON, D.C.  Nardyne Jeffries, advocate and survivor
MY CHILD IS CHRISTOPHER  Richard Martinez, advocate and survivor

SPOKEN WORD  VIOLINS? OR VIOLENCE?

THE REV. KAREN CURRY  writer/director
CHELSEY GREEN  violinist, the Green Project

SILENCE
“DEMAND A PLAN TO END GUN VIOLENCE”

LITANY

TYLER BARBARIN  Though we are affected in different ways by those taken by gun violence: as one humanity we are all touched.

PEOPLE  We are all touched.

DR. RAJWANT SINGH  This is an American issue—as Americans we must stop the violence. Our forefathers did not intend to permit guns—such as AK-47s and Glocks—in schools, temples, churches, and movie theatres.

PEOPLE  No more mass killings!

THE REV. DONALD ISAAC  In the District of Columbia, in Prince George's County, in Baltimore—we have lost too many young lives, too many lives. The growing list sadly represents too many families destroyed, children without a parent, and teenagers planning their own funerals.

PEOPLE  We WILL do better than this!

SENATOR RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  Newtown woke us up to the tragedy of gun violence. And Aurora, Lafayette, Chattanooga, the Navy Yard, and Charleston live in our memories—yet the killing goes on.

PEOPLE  How many more?

DR. LARRY GOLEMON  This national shame does not take a holiday. This human family, all God's children, must stand together against the gun manufacturers and those who promote irresponsible use of guns.

PEOPLE  Now is the time!

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER MURPHY  Let us commit to working TOGETHER, one unified movement to stop the killing and raise up a new life for our children and grandchildren. Newtown, Chicago, Ferguson, Oak Creek, and Roseburg—small towns and big cities across the country—demand this.

PEOPLE  We WILL demand a plan! Now is the time! Enough!

INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO  BESS EVANS

VIDEO  REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, OCTOBER 1, 2015

RECOGNITIONS & CALLING FORTH

CALL TO ACTION  THE RT. REV. MARIANN EDGAR BUDDE

CLOSING HYMN  WE WILL OVERCOME

Please join in.

We will overcome, we will overcome, we will overcome one day.
Deep in our hearts, we'll overcome gun violence one day.
Now is the time, we will not give up, we will save lives each day.
Deep in our souls, we know we will stop gun violence one day.

SENDING FORTH  THE VERY REV. GARY HALL
PARTICIPANTS

The Very Rev. Gary Hall, Dean of Washington National Cathedral
The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington
Lawrence Patrick Reppert, Cantor
Talib Shareef, President and Imam, Masjid Muhammad (“the Nation’s Mosque”)
Rabbi Susan Landau, Assistant Rabbi, Temple Micah
The Hon. Elizabeth Esty, Member of Congress, Connecticut
Nardyne Jeffries, Advocate and Survivor, Washington, D.C.
Richard Martinez, Advocate and Senior Outreach Associate, Everytown for Gun Safety
The Rev. Karen Curry, Assistant Pastor, Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church
Chelsey Green, Violinist
Tyler Barbarin, Student, American University
Dr. Rajwant Singh, Founder and President, Eco Sikh
The Rev. Donald Isaac, Director of Religious Affairs, Executive Office of the Mayor, Washington, D.C.
The Hon. Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator, Connecticut
Dr. Larry Golemon, Executive Director, Washington Theological Consortium
The Hon. Christopher Murphy, U.S. Senator, Connecticut
Bess Evans, Associate Director and Senior Policy Advisor, White House Office of Public Engagement and White House Domestic Policy Council

PARTNERS

Americans for Responsible Solutions
The Brady Campaign
Center for American Progress/Generation Progress
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Everytown/Moms Demand Action
Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence
Heeding God’s Call
Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
Media Matters
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
Violence Policy Center

We thank Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America for the two quilts displayed this evening. Each quilt contains at least one block composed of meaningful fabric from a victim or survivor of gun violence, such as a piece of clothing or a beloved blanket. The quilts are a visual testament to both the pervasiveness of gun violence in the U.S. and the power of connectedness and unity in our efforts to stop this epidemic. Learn more about the Mother’s Dream Quilt Project at mothersdreamquilt.org.

This event was planned and executed with the energy and care of the Cathedral Gun Violence Prevention Group. We are most grateful to this band of determined advocates. If you would like to join with them, please contact pjohnson@cathedral.org. Onward!

Hymn “I Cried to God” by the Rev. Carolyn Gillette, used with permission.