



## Sample Prayers

A pastor, congregational representative, or someone touched by the tragedy of gun violence can lead the time of prayer. Here are a couple of examples that you may use or that may help you in leading the congregation in prayer:

Loving God (or, Heavenly Father), who heals those with broken hearts and binds up their wounds, we lift up to you today all those who have suffered loss due to gun violence. We pray you will comfort them in their pain and loneliness, relieve them of their fear, draw close to them in their agony, and restore them to hope and wholeness. In the name of the One who suffered violence on our behalf, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation might pray for those known and unknown in their own community that have experienced loss to gun violence:

1. O Lord, we pray for those in our community (neighborhood, city, town, county) who have lost people close to them as a result of a shooting. We lift up to you (name(s), descriptions, etc.), and pray they will know the healing touch of your love in their hearts, in their minds, and in their souls. You are the one that loves us with an everlasting love. We pray in the name of the One that came to bind up the broken hearted, Jesus the Great Physician. Amen.

2. O God who restores the soul, help those that experience the shock, terror, and loneliness that come in the aftermath of gun violence. Help them today to know your compassion and companionship in their anguish, torment, and distress. Soothe their hearts and minds. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who gives us rest for our souls. Amen.

Bring the prayer time to a close according to how you feel led, and if appropriate, offer those in your congregation who have been impacted by gun violence themselves, to meet with elders, deacons, or Assistant Pastors after the service for personal prayer!