

Out of Many, One



Title and image based upon the "Out of Many, One: A Community Art Project" by Muriel Stockdale. For more information go to: <http://tinyurl.com/outofmany1>.

9/11 Commemorative Prayer Service Leaders Guide

Created by the
IHM Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office

Gathering/Welcome/Call to Prayer

Presider

Opening Song “On Eagles Wings” (1st and 2nd verses)

Opening Prayer

Presider

Loving God, as we gather today let us seek peace in our own hearts so we may promote peace in this nation and among all people. Comfort and strengthen all who live with fear and anxiety and fill us with the healing power of your love. Open our hearts today as we reflect on the hope of forgiveness and reconciliation among the entire human family.

Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 8:23-27

Reader

Reflection

Homilist

Quiet personal reflection on the following questions followed by a moment of silence and brief one-on-one sharing. Afterwards participants will be invited to write on a card provided a feeling and/or blessing.

What were your feelings immediately after the 9/11 attacks? How do you feel now?

What is one wish or blessing you have for your family, your community, your country or the world?

Procession w/music

Participants are invited to process to the prayer table and place cards (on which they have written their feelings and wishes or blessings) in a basket to be held in prayer.

Litany

(based on Mennonite Prayer, “Be Still and Know that I Am God”)

Reader #1: In times when we are impatient with those closest to us, we hear...
Be still and know that I am God.

Reader #2: In the times when we wish our nation would lay down its weapons and surrender to the will of God we hear...
Be still and know that I am God.

Reader #3: As we pray for the leaders of nations and all who are in positions of political authority...
Help us hear your voice of healing and reconciliation...

Reader #4: As we pray for our enemies, the ones for whom we would rather not pray...
Help us hear your voice of healing and reconciliation.

Reader #5: While we wait for answers to human problems that may never be resolved we pray...
In you O God, we put our trust.

Reader #6: While we struggle to seek justice in an unjust world we pray...
In you O God, we put our trust.

Reader #7: Loving God, help us to be still in your presence.
Allow us to hear your voice.

Reader #8: Creator God, you are with us in our pain.
Allow us to accept your healing.

Reader #9: Faithful God, you know our fears.
Allow us to put our trust in you.

Closing Prayer

Presider

Loving God, hear our prayer today as we work to move toward wholeness. Help us to repair the ravages of hate. Help us to bring together rather than to tear apart. In the spirit of Jesus help us replace the clenched fist with the open hand of solidarity. Help us to build inclusive community where we understand that we need each other for wholeness. Out of many, we are one. **Amen.**

Closing Song “On Eagles Wings” (2nd and 3rd verses).