

**“Surround the City with Light & Love”
Solidarity Prayer Vigil Handout
August 29, 2021**

Holy One, whom we call by many names,
Spirit of Love, that dwells within and around us all –

We gather here to surround
Pastor Debra Murray,
this church,
this city,
our communities,
and our world

with light and love.

(Pause to imagine light and love surrounding the people and places that most need it.)

We hold in our hearts all who are targeted or hurt, all whose dignity is threatened or whose intrinsic worth is questioned because of what they look like or who they are.

(Pause to bring into your heart individuals and communities of people that some in our society devalue, belittle, or attack.)

We commit not only our hearts, but our words and our actions, our presence and our lives to stand beside and stand up for these our siblings in our one human family. We pray to that which is beyond us and that which is within us for the wisdom, compassion and courage to not turn away from aggression, discrimination or violence when we see or hear it, but to face it in our communities and ourselves, and work together, every day in every way, to transform such hate or fear into love.

(Pause to reflect and commit to one concrete and tangible effort of solidarity and love.)

The Jewish sages teach:

Adam and Eve were created alone, to teach that one who destroys a single human soul, it is as if they destroyed the entire world. And one who sustains a single soul, it is as if they sustained the entire world. (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5)

The Buddhist Meditation on Loving Kindness includes:

May all beings be safe.

May all beings be protected from inner and outer enmity.

May all beings be well in body and mind.

May all beings be at peace.

The Muslim tradition teaches:

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessing be upon him, said:

You will not enter Paradise until you have faith, and you will not have faith until you love each other.

Shall I show you something that, if you did, you would love each other?

Spread peace between yourselves. (Sahih Muslim 54)



St. Francis prayed:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy*

The Baha'i Writings teach:

*Know ye not why we created you all from the same dust?
So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.*

A Hindu prayer asks:

*Fill the Heart with the oil of Love.
Place in it the wick of single-pointed mind.
Light it with the Knowledge of Truth and remove
The darkness of ignorance around you.*

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught:

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.*

...

*We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of
our civilization!*

A Unitarian Universalist minister wrote,

*blessed are we when we stay tender.
blessed are we when we stay fierce.
blessed are we when we dare to imagine repair and transformation.
blessed are we when we labor together to make it so.*

May we work together to build a community where every person is valued, respected and safe,
where we celebrate a unity that is woven together by our beautiful diversity,
where justice, healing and wholeness flourish,
a community where all are welcome,
a community that all can proudly call their home.

May we surround our city, and our global family, with light and love.

Amen.