

**PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT
PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
JUNE 12, 2018**

GUN VIOLENCE AND GOD'S PROMISES

CALL TO WORSHIP

God promises a day when swords will be turned into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks,
when nations will spend resources on building peace instead of on waging war.

God promises a day when children will be healthy and safe so they can live to adulthood
when the violence of injustice will not shorten their lives.

God promises a day when people will build houses and inhabit them, and plant vineyards and eat their fruit,
when the violence of greed will not drive the poor from their homes and livelihoods.

God promises that the peacemakers will be blessed, as children of God.

We gather to worship God who calls us to turn from the ways of violence toward God's way of peace. Amen.

HYMN OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

*O Christ, You Did No Violence**

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")

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| 1.
O Christ, you did no violence yet you were crushed with pain;
You suffered great injustice to make us whole again.
As lambs are led to slaughter and sheep in silence wait,
You gave your life to offer a love that conquers hate. | 4.
Our games and movies teach us that violence is all right.
O God, our greed is boundless; our wealth depends on might.
Our nations' moral failings in politics and war
All lead to countless killings — to violence you abhor. |
| 2.
You gave your life to save us, yet, God, we now confess:
Forgetting that you love us, we live in hatefulness.
We tolerate injustice that breaks the human soul;
We overlook the madness as violence takes its toll. | 5.
The patterns of our violence give shape to all our days,
Yet you, O God, are gracious; your ways are not our ways.
Now by your Holy Spirit, we pray you'll make us new,
Till peace becomes our pattern as we all follow you. |
| 3.
When children hear the popping of one more fired gun
And know there is no stopping and look for where to run,
When workers face oppression, and women face abuse,
Lord, hear your world's confession, for there is no excuse. | |

PASSING OF THE PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE: *Micah 4:1-7*

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war

anymore; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. In that day, says the Lord, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away, and those whom I have afflicted. The lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion now and forevermore.

VIDEO: *Raw Tools*

SERMON

PRAYER OF LAMENT AND SUPPLICATION

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

335,609 (*I Cried to God*)

Tune: *FINLANDIA 11.10.11.10.11.10* ("Be Still, My Soul")

1. 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!'"
2. 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!"
3. 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?"
4. 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.

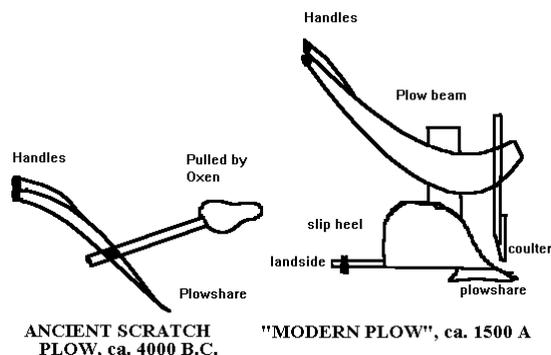
PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

May God bless us with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, **so that we may seek truth boldly and love deep within our hearts.**

May God bless us with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, **so that we may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.**

May God bless us with the gift of tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, **so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.**

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we really can make a difference in this world, **so that we are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.**



Drummer: The Rev. Kara Hildebrandt

Liturgist: The Rev. Kevin Johnson

Organist: Mr. Glenn Miller

Preacher: The Rev. Barb McRae

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Call to Worship, Benediction and Hymns by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette:

O Christ, You Did No Violence

Text: Copyright © 2016 The Institute for Faith and Learning at Baylor University.

Hymn Note: This hymn was commissioned by Christian Reflection, a journal of The Institute for Faith and Learning at Baylor University, for a special issue on the "Patterns of Violence" which is available as a free downloadable file. [Patterns of Violence](#)

335,609 (*I Cried to God*)

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Hymn Note: In the last full decade, "between 2000 and 2010, a total of 335,609 people died from guns — more than the population of St. Louis, Mo. (318,069), Pittsburgh (307,484), Cincinnati, Ohio (296,223), Newark, N.J. (277,540), and Orlando, Fla. (243,195) (sources: CDF, U.S. Census; CDC)."

Permission is given for free use of these hymns for local church use and by ecumenical groups by those supporting efforts to end gun violence.

RESPONSES TO GUN VIOLENCE

– 30 minutes

1. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America – *Celeste Kampurwala, spokesperson for local group, Washtenaw County Moms.*
A non-partisan national group that lobbies for sensible gun laws.
MomsDemandAction.org

2. Detroit Clergy Community Alliance – *Rev. Kevin Johnson, Co-Leader*
www.facebook.com/Detroit-Community-Clergy-Alliance-399004803471912/
Volunteers who walk the neighborhoods around various Detroit churches to build relationships through conversation and prayer.

3. Grosse Pointe Memorial Church – *Rev. Peter Henry, Pastor*
A POD congregation exploring ways to prevent gun violence.
www.gpmchurch.org/main/

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- 30 minutes

- 1. Of what am I afraid & what gives me hope when I think of gun violence?**
- 2. What do I want to learn and do about gun violence prevention?**
- 3. What could my congregation do, locally & nationally, to address gun violence?**

RESOURCES

POD Website – Teams: Social Justice: Gun Violence Prevention

Moms Demand Action has a table near the Presbytery Meeting Papers table with information and resources.